

## ASA 101- 104: Feb 21-29, 2020



- ❖ **Crew:** Capt. Steve Runals (VA), Carol and Roger Leonard (TN), Jock Whittlesey (VA), Monique Wong (VA), Mario Orozco (FL, CO)
- ❖ **Boat:** IP 465: *S/V Mamie*
- ❖ **Distance traveled:** 126 nm
- ❖ **Places visited:**
  - Caneel, Francis, Lameshur Bays, St John
  - Cruz Bay, St John
  - Culebra
  - Lindbergh Bay, St Thomas
  - Christmas Cove, Great St James
- ❖ Circumnavigated **St John**, crossed the **Virgin Passage** between **St Thomas** and **Culebra**. Saw whales, coordinated passage with ocean ships.
- ❖ Sun, wind, rain – a little too much

## Feb 21- 22: Arrival & Underway



**Dist: 7.5 nm, Max Spd: 5.5 kts, Mvg Time: 4 hrs**

### 21 Feb:

- All students on boat but Mario by mid afternoon. Stow gear, confirm cruising plan and finalize meal and provision list. Monique, Roger, Carol and Cpt head to store. Sticker shock at prices.
- Stow provisions; dinner at **OutRigger**. Mario keeps us updated on his constantly changing arrival time, finally arrives at 1930.
- Dinner, return to boat, below deck orientation and bed.

### 22 Feb:

- Early start after breakfast ashore.
- Review Fed Min Safety Requirement booklet, find all safety equipment, complete below deck orientation, on deck inspection and discussion of sail and anchoring handling equipment. Discuss nautical charts and review coastal navigation procedures. Assume crew responsibilities for predeparture prep.
- Review MOB, with focus on recovery underpower.
- Depart **Red Hook**, into **Pillsbury Sound** - beautiful day with lots of power and sailboat traffic. All crew get a chance at steering to get familiarized steering this large, heavy boat.
- Practice MOB under power.
- Deploy sails, practice tacking and sail trim on the way to overnight anchorage in **Rendezvous Bay**.
- Anchored in a beautiful anchorage just before 1700. A little rolling with unseasonable SE light winds. Jock dives on anchor to improved holding. Grill pork chops. Nice night. After dinner, review knots.
- Jock, nav for tomorrow, lays out course.

## Feb 23: Rendezvous Bay to Cruz Bay and Francis Bay



Dist: 9 nm; Mvg time: 3.5 hrs; Max spd: 5.8, Avg spd 3.8 kts

- Anchor secured and underway after pre ops checks by 0830.
- Raise sails enroute to **Cruz Bay** for an early dinner. Along the way practice tacking and jibing, identification of stand-on and give-way responsibilities for power and sail. Lots of traffic.
- On a National Park Service moorings outside **Cruz Bay** just before noon.
- Dingy into town for a walk about, dinner and a little exploring. Discuss dingy and outboard motor operation while underway. Back aboard and under sail by 1430 hrs.
- Sail on a broad reach and finally wing-on-wing in unseasonably light SW winds thru the **Windward Passage** and on to a mooring in **Francis Bay**. Secured by 1600 hrs..
- Jock and Monique take and pass their ASA 101 test, Roger lays out our nav plan for tomorrow and Carol starts prep for dinner. Marion and Capt use dingy to pay park mooring fee.



## Feb 24: Around St John



**Dist: 19.5 nm; Mvg time: 6 hrs; Max spd: 7 kts, Avg spd: 4 kts**

- Today from **Francis Bay**, past **Bitter End**, into **The Sir Francis Drake Channel**, around the east end of **St John** to a mooring in **Lameshur Bay**.
- Underway by 0845 hrs, once clear of the mooring field, raise sails. Motorsail in light winds into the Bay south of **Josh Van Dyke**. Light winds and intermittent showers as we work our way toward the **Bitter End** and into the **Sir Francis Drake Channel**. Along the way the crew rotates thru steering and taking two bearing fixes.
- Thru the **Thatch Cut Narrows** by mid AM, wind still light. Roger sets up a danger bearing to keep us off **Eagle Shoals** after we round the east end of **St John**. Downwind sailing with the preventor rigged. Practice jibing PST - TSP.
- Moored in **Lamasher Bay** by 1500 hrs.. Mario and Capt use dingy to take trash ashore and pay mooring fee.
- Mario lays out course for tomorrow, all go for swim, enjoy some good snorkeling.
- Another great meal aboard with excellent company.

## Feb 25: St John to Culebra



**Dist:36.7 nm**

**Mvg time: 7.5 hrs**

**Max spd:8.10 kts**

**Avg spd: 5 kts**

- Mario's course takes us south of **St John** and **St Thomas**, across the **Virgin Passage** to **Culebra**. Forecast is for NE winds 10-15 with gusts to 20 kts. Depart as the sun comes up. Wind light, from E. Broad reach with winds 7-8 kts with preventor rigged.
- Track progress by taking two bearing fixes.
- By 1000 hrs clear of **St John**, **Sail Rock** in sight; rain showers on and around us. Lots of ship traffic as we pass entrance channels to **Charlotte Amalie**. Contact one ship on VHF 13 to confirm passage info.
- Noon off **Sail Rock**. Tie off staysail boom to weather - sail wing-n-wing with preventor on boom. Nice sailing in ocean swells 4-6 ft. Spot a pod of whales once past **Sail Rock**.
- Contact a second ship on VHF 16, confirm passage info on VHF13.
- Into the entrance channel to **Culebra**, anchored in **Ensenada Honda** by 1445 hrs.. Good day of sailing .
- A little shopping, walking about and an excellent dinner ashore.

## Feb 26: Around Culebra



**Dist: 9.8 nm, Max Spd: 5.6 kts, Mvg Time: 5 hrs**

- Today sail in the local area, practice MOB under sail and do a little snorkeling before heading to an anchorage in **Bahia de Almodover**.
- Wind is up making securing the anchor a little more challenging; once secure we are underway by 0930. Clear the narrow entrance to **Ensenada Honda** and under sail by 0945 hrs..

- Before heading west off **Punta Del Soldado**, confirm our psn by taking a two-bearing fix.
- Practice tacking and MOB using both Figure 8 and MotorSail recovery techniques.
- Tack our way around **Cayo Lus Pena**. Pickup a mooring off west side of **Culebra** for lunch and some snorkeling. Beautiful day. Finally able to pick up NOAA weather radio from PR; station damaged by recent hurricanes.
- Underway, close reaching to the entrance to reefs off the **Ensenada Honda** and **Canal Del Sur** in a building headwind.
- Into a beautiful, secure anchorage by 1600 hrs. Excellent sailing day. Crew sees value in using harness and tethers.
- ASA 103 test for Jock and Monique, well done.
- Swimming, showers, an excellent dinner in a star filled sky, story telling and some knot tying close out a great sailing day. Tomorrow it's back to **St Thomas**.

## Feb 27: Back to St Thomas



**Dist: 27 nm**

**Mvg time: 6 hrs**

**Max spd: 6.9**

**Avg spd: 4.5**

- Monique lays out route back East. Plan has us initially heading initially south in the **Canal Del Sur**, across the **Virgin Passage** and to an anchorage in **Linbergh Bay** by the airport. Expect light winds 5-10 kts from the East.
- Carefully clear the narrow entrance to anchorage by 0730 hrs. Based on wind strength and direction, decide to head north around the northern end of **Culebrita** to begin our crossing further north.
- Light wind, motorsail with staysail, main and engine at 2000 rpm. Track slow progress by two bearing fixes as we work our way back to **St Thomas**. Tack our way east past **Savana Island** and get a good, closeup look at **Sail Rock**.
- Carefully avoid the reefs and shallows around the airport, anchor set by 1330 hrs..
- All but Mario decide to go ashore for a chance to stretch their legs, so some snorkeling. Roger and Carol take a taxi into town for lunch.
- By 1700 hrs all aboard ready for more. Anchorage can be rolling but with the light wind, only gentle roll tonight.



## Feb 28: Christmas Cove



**Dist: 14.6 nm**

**Mvg time: 3.5 hrs**

**Max spd: 7.25**

**Avg spd: 4.35**

- Anchor secured and underway by 0800. Jock plots our course to do a little sightseeing. Motorsail up the **West Gregerie Channel**, past the mooring field off **Water Island** and down the **East Gregerie Channel**.
- Once past **Cowell Pt**, sail toward **Buck and Capella Islands** in light winds that slowly build giving us a great sail. Lots of charter boats heading to moorings off **Capella Island** give us a chance to practice “right-of-way” rules.
- Tack our way to the buoy off **Packet Rock**, sail close hauled past the west end of **Capella Island**.
- Once into **St James Bay**, carefully avoid the **Cow and Calf Rocks** as we work our way to the mooring field off **Great St James Island** and **Christmas Cove**. Its a little crowded but just as we are about to drop anchor outside the moorings, a mooring comes open. Secured by 1130 hrs.. A great sail!
- Lunch, a short break to do some final studying and its time for Roger, Mario and Carol to take their ASA 104 test. All do well; now time for some swimming.
- Over dinner, discuss the course, lessons learned and enjoy a beautify sunset under a clear, star fill sky.



## Feb 29: Home Again



Dist: 1.5 nm

Mvg Time: 45 min

- Early departure gets us moving by 0730 hrs headed back to **Red Hook** thru the **Current Hole**. The damaged light and daymark on **Current Hole Rock** still shows the impact of recent hurricanes
- Arrive at **American Yacht Haven** fuel dock at 0815, refueled and back in our slip by 0900. Boat clean up, packing and ready for taxi. Some to a local B&B, others to the airport.
- It's been a great trip, meeting and exceeding all expectations.

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Dist: 126 nm

Mvg Time: 36 hrs

### Some insights:

- ❖ A great learning opportunity, meeting and exceeding expectations.
- ❖ An appreciation for the impact of tides and currents on cruise planning and while underway.
- ❖ Insights on the value of integrating “paper” and electronic navigation.
- ❖ Importance of being able to read and understand the information available on charts – matching what’s on the chart with what you see around you.
- ❖ Value of the information in **Local Notice to Mariners** and cruising guides to assist in cruise planning.
- ❖ Importance in monitoring and identifying trends in wind/sea conditions, barometric pressure, battery consumption.
- ❖ Importance of pre ops checks and staying “in tune” with boat systems while underway.
- ❖ Value of a mainsail preventor when sailing off the wind.
- ❖ All agree there is so much more to explore.











