

Baja Voyage Day 1, 2, & 3

This trip involved more than 2200 miles of driving and 600 nm of sailing. For technical details and information, lists, etc. see "Baja Odyssey & Lists" posted previously as Baja intro. You may find these useful if you are planning a long voyage.



Enosis heading south past Mt. Shasta

wandered onto a narrow one-way road with a barrier gate that someone forgot to lock. We spent the night on the side of the road in the middle of a wildlife sanctuary. It reminded me of the upper Eastern shore of Maryland with herons, pelicans and spartina grass all surrounded by high sand cliffs

The trip began when my friends Mike, Jonathan and I left from Medford, a small town in southwestern Oregon in the afternoon of Father's Day, 2005. They were towing their 23' Ranger and I, my Rhodes 22. We drove for 5 hours stopping at my brother's house in Sacramento for the night, and to pick him up for the adventure. Early the next morning we headed south. The end of the of the day found us in Newport Beach looking for someplace to park the boat overnight. We had no luck until we



My trusty F150 and its elegant burden



Dawn, Back Bay, Newport California

We got up early the next morning and headed south. Mike took the lead, having made the trip before, and I followed. All the necessary paperwork was prepaid through an organization called Vagabundos del Mar that specializes in helping people discover Baja. The crossing through Mexican customs went without a hitch and we got back on our way in no time.

The road south to Ensenada was mostly a toll road comparable to those in the U.S. As we went through Ensenada, we stopped for fish tacos and headed out southbound on Rt. 1A. It is a 2-lane paved highway that carries all the traffic for the entire peninsula of Baja. The pavement was in good shape, but the grades were steeper than those in the States. The width of the road was much narrower. Therefore, the boat



The scene of the equine's demise

rolled the truck off the road and dragged the horse to the other side, that we could continue.

I must say something about "Topes". These are speed bumps which often appear in the road with very little warning. When Mike would hit one, I could see 4 inches of air between his hull and the bunks. Ouch! As a result of the trip vibrations and topes, there were a few things that came loose or fell off the boat. For example, I lost my solar panel brace, turnbuckle and masthead fitting.



Moonlit highway on the way to BLA

Once we turned off of 1A and drove east in the moonlight across the peninsula for 100 miles, the landscape became surreal. We saw strange boojum trees, saguaro cactus and massive boulders all lit by the full moon. We did not see another car or town on this well maintained but, un-traveled road. We arrived at the Bay of Angles (Bahia de Los Angeles) at 1:30 in the morning and promptly went to sleep parked on the beach.



The town of Bahia de Los Angeles (BLA) has perhaps 500 people, 1 gas station and several small food stores. It is just a big village with sport fishing and eco-tourism. There are a couple of launching ramps, several small hotels and restaurants, which are pretty rustic. The larger of the food stores could have supplied us with much of what we needed at a reasonable price.

Our first dawn, Bay of Angles, Baja California

Next time, I will leave earlier in the morning from San Diego and arrive at a more reasonable time. Though scary, it certainly is within the skill of most drivers to take their boat down to BLA. In fact, I left the boat and truck there at the end of this trip for my 22 year-old son to drive back a week later after his vacation.

To Be Continued.....



The town of Bay of Angles looking west