
From: Jes Staley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 2:03 PM
To: Jes Staley
Subject: Day 9

Our current position is 17.07 W by 54.48 N. We are sailing in 14 to 18 knots of wind, with mizzen, main, and spinnaker up, going at a good clip.

I ended last night with the crew having a cup of tea, under grey skies and some rain. Shortly after I sent the note, Seumas asked that we bring the spinnaker down, as it looked a little worse. No soon as we had the big sail on deck to be bagged, the wind hit.

Most sailors I know would say that "things get interesting" when winds are stronger than 40 knots (about 50 mph). Last night we had a big following sea, periods of intense rain, and sustained winds between 30 and 40 knots. For the occasional sailor, things get interesting when the winds get close to getting interesting. It was a long night where you hold on and let Bequia do her thing.

At times Bequia was surfing down waves at speeds of 14 to 15 knots (its in the Log book), blowing off huge volumes of ocean from her bow. Big white waves could be seen coming to our stern, and the auto helm groaned trying to keep Bequia straight.

You do your watch in foul weather gear, a safety harness with an inflatable life jacket, and if you leave the cockpit, you tether yourself in. We sailed with a double reefed main and a reefed jib. It is the first time I have seen Bequia shoved around a bit and sleeping was very hard, no matter how I tried to pin myself in in the bunk.

I completed another initiation into ocean sailing. I got hit twice by a flying fish. You don't see them coming, and if they hit you straight on, its like a punch from the dark.

My second watch ended at 5:00 AM.

I woke up at 9:30 AM to blue skies and a beautiful white spinnaker flying from Bequia's bow. We had passed the interesting stuff.

Jes Staley
Blue Mountain Capital

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