

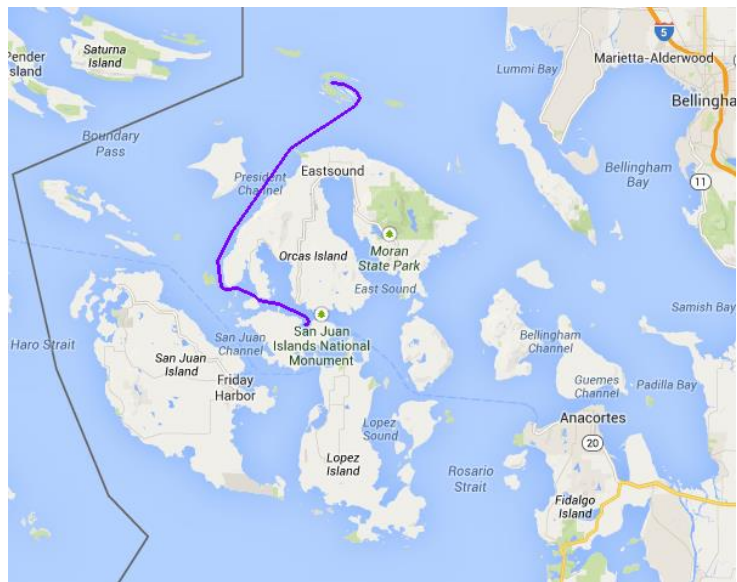
# Serendipity Travels

## Log of the *Serendipity* San Juan Islands, WA USA

Sucia Island and environs.

### Thursday, 10 July 2014

Upon arising, we discover that our mooring lines have managed to pass under the mooring buoy. Hopefully, they are not twisted, which would make our departure more difficult. After breakfast, we start the engine and Steve works on retrieving the lines while Meredith has the helm. The first line comes free easily, and the second follows with little difficulty. We motor out of the bay and head west.



Not far into our journey, we notice an interesting piece of driftwood floating in the channel. Steve stops the boat, turns the helm over to Meredith, don his life vest, and hops in the Bullfrog. While she keeps *Serendipity* on station, he goes over to the drifting wood, pulls it into the Bullfrog, and returns. Wakes of a few passing boats make the task more interesting, but he is soon back aboard, dinghy secure, and we head off.

Today our travels take us from Blind Bay, through Pole Pass, and up the western shore of Orcas Island. The wind is from the northwest, rather unusual for these waters, and makes for a lumpy ride. Rounding Point Doughty, we set our sights on Sucia Island. Motoring into Echo Bay, we spot an open mooring buoy.

Soon, we are secure to the buoy. After lunch,

*To see more pictures of the last four days cruising, overlaid on a map, click: [San Juan Islands Trip 2014, Map III](#)*

we tour the bay, traveling counter-clockwise. Lots of interesting rock and tree formations are visible. At one point, we see a couple of otters, which scurry out of the water and up the bank.

Near the end of our circuit, we spot another intriguing piece of driftwood. This one is floating in a mass of kelp and other pieces of wood. Disentangling it takes a bit of work, and we are left

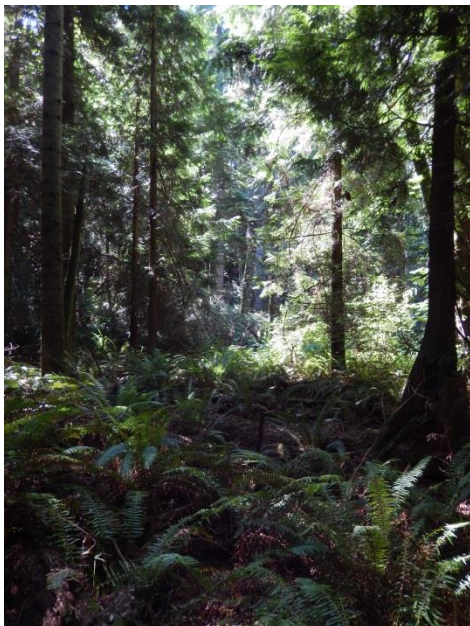
with a 10-foot long piece, heavy at one end and tapering to a point at the other. We hoist the heavy part into the Bullfrog, trailing the other end behind us, and return to *Serendipity*. We have a saw aboard, and we cut off the smallish 7 foot piece, retaining only the base.



Our logging done, we motor to shore. The excess from our “catch” is added to the driftwood on the beach, and we deposit our moorage registration. We take a quick glance at Shallow Bay, which is across a narrow isthmus from Echo Bay, and then head back aboard for the evening.

### Friday, 11 July 2014

Matia Island lies about three miles due east of Echo Bay. It has a small dock and two mooring buoys. Because the moorage is open to the northwest, yesterday we elected to go to Sucia instead. Three miles is very doable in the Bullfrog, however, and we motor across with lunches in-hand.



There is room at the park dock, where we tie up. Matia is a wild-life preserve, but it has a one-mile loop trail open to the public. The hike is fairly easy – shorter and less elevation change than our two previous ventures. Much of the path is through old-growth forest, although there are a few vistas to the east and southeast. After the hike, we have our lunch at a table overlooking the cove.

The Bullfrog returns us to our mother ship, where we spend the afternoon in relaxation mode. As the afternoon wears on, we notice vessels belonging to some of our friends at Bellingham Yacht Club

arriving. This weekend is a “Luau” cruise, and we are but the first of several boats expected.

Cellular Internet service is poor to nonexistent where we are moored. We take the Bullfrog to the mouth of the bay, where we do receive a good signal. We sip a beer while catching up on email and Facebook – two of life’s necessities in this digital age.

On the way back to our boat, we stop and chat with two other BYC boats. Once back at our vessel, we dine and read. Tomorrow is the Luau and we will have overnight guests aboard. Tonight is a “Super Full Moon” and we enjoy the sight.



### Saturday, 12 July 2014

Our night’s sleep was less restful than usual. Currents in the bay held us sideways to the prevailing wind and waves, and we rocked most of the night. As the night wore on, we located most of the things that rattle in the boat.

Our day begins quietly as we notice other boats entering the bay. We spend a bit of time preparing the boat for guests – the crew of *White Lightning* will be staying with us. They are participating in a fishing derby this weekend, and being able to sleep on *Serendipity* saves them a round-trip to Bellingham this evening and early tomorrow morning.



After lunch, we take the Bullfrog out on a quest to find cellular Internet service. We chat with those on *Jumanji* (host for this weekend’s events) and then motor to the mouth of Echo Bay. We find a picturesque spot to check email and Facebook (picture at left) – and shut off the motor and drift while we are on-line.

Connectivity satisfied, we return to *Serendipity*. Soon, we are on shore,



doing minor tasks to help set up for the luau. Others arrive, and we work on emptying the punch bowl. Dinner is served and we enjoy some excellent food inspired by the (Hawaiian) Islands.

As the evening wears on, *White Lightning* arrives, with tales of fishing but not catching. There is plenty of luau food left, though, so the fishermen do not go hungry.



### Sunday, 13 July 2014

The fishermen are up and away from the boat by 05:30. After seeing them off, Steve return to bed for a few more hours rest. The winds and seas are calm when he rises about 07:30. Meredith is up soon after, and we decide to take advantage of the conditions and head to home.

A favorable current helps us along, and within three hours we are back at our berth in Squalicum Harbor. *Serendipity* and the Bullfrog have served us well, and we set about immediately to prepare them for our next trip.

