

## **Day 88-97: October 12-21, 2010**

We are back at sea! We left at 7 am to flat seas, a cool breeze and sunshine. Really a pleasant day. I have attached photos for our gorgeous sunset and Shouping enjoying it. We were also treated to the sun glistening like millions of diamonds on the ocean surface most of the day. Could not capture that in a picture though.

Our port call was long and hard as we waited for the transmission repair. Sandy and I actually drove to South Carolina (12 hours each way) to someone's house where he fixed it in his garage. It took him four days to complete the repair. The transmission manufacturer said he was the best so we used him. The problem- the last rebuild in June was incomplete and poorly done and so we unwittingly suffered the consequences. The tale goes on because it actually involves three transmission guys named Chris each giving us conflicting information. Each Chris screwing up in their own personal way. But in the end, the transmission is fixed, and running well thanks to a lot of work by Captain Bob and Rick and a lot of driving around by me.

Did I say Rick??? Yes, indeed I did. Rick is back for the last leg only this time he is on as science crew and will focus on whale watches and biopsying. We missed Rick. He is clearly family now.

So we are off again. Some of our additional crew could not make it in the end. The team is now: Captain Bob, First Mate Ian, Deckhand Bailey and a science team of Johnny, Matt, Shouping, Sandy, Rick and of course me. Our plan is to sail the 200 meter shelf towards St. Petersburg looking for Bryde's whales. Then we will not port, but will head to the 1000 meter shelf and look for sperm whales looping back in this direction. Then at about the 1000 meter line above Mobile, we will turn again to 200 meters and try again for Bryde's whales sailing towards St. Petersburg., Once again we will not port, but this time will ride the 1000 meters towards Key West and ultimately dock in Key West bringing the 2010 voyage to an end. We will then resume from Key West in June 2011.

Of course, this plan is all weather permitting.

John





