

**Penobscot Bay 2006**  
**AKA: *The Rendezvous That Wasn't***

**Well**, I thought I had better get all my thoughts down about our trip to Penobscot Bay, Maine, as soon as I was able and before the start of the new school year begins and time is at a premium. Dan and I had a WONDERFUL cruise of the bay, and wish that we had at least one boat to share it with. Alas, this was not to be, so we have renamed this **The Rendezvous that wasn't.**

Dan and I arrived at the excellent Rockland Municipal ramp in the rain Sunday afternoon, August 20. Since it was raining steadily, we decided to set up Monday morning and spent the rest of the afternoon exploring Rockland, which was well worth it. We visited the Chamber of Commerce/Museum/Gift Shop, found ice cream, browsed some shops, located a waterfront location for cocktails, and finally a pub (Black Bull Inn) for a comforting dinner as it was rather dismal weatherwise. We slept in the parking lot overnight, set up in the morning, and were underway by around noon on Monday with great weather.



Rockland Harbor

We had a lovely sail Monday afternoon with SW winds about 10 knots. First night out was a fabulous anchorage at Pulpit Harbor on the Northwest Side of North Haven Island. Notice our privileged neighbors. We were to see many beautiful and

expensive yachts on this trip, but I kept reminding Dan that their view and ours was just the same, and our anchorages were more intimate.



Pulpit Harbor, North Haven



Pulpit Harbor Sunset over the Camden Hills

Our second day on the bay, Tuesday, was a slow sail/motor to Castine in the Northeast corner of the bay. We stopped at the Castine Yacht Club where they were very welcoming and the dogs got walked, we got a shower and the cooler got ice. We also spent some time on the Town Landing and at Dennetts, a local eatery, on the bay for a cool drink. The town is perched on the side of a hill angling down to the water and is very quaint. Anchorage for the evening was Smith's Cove south of Castine. The precise location in the cove for the night was suggested by a very friendly and helpful employee at Dennetts who instructed us to find the head of the Cove where there are tidal pools, and the outgoing tide in these pools creates a waterfall...so we did. It was private and

beautiful!



Maine Maritime Academy in Castine and their vessel *State of Maine*



Smith Cove anchorage. Notice the small waterfall to the left



Sunset at Smith Cove

By the way, after our rainy Sunday beginning, we had unbelievably good weather all week. Sunny, cool (70's, 40's-50's at night) with mostly N/NW breezes overnight and in the morning, very light at times, and W/SW breezes 10-15 in the afternoon. We sailed every day but one. Our only complaint was the vigilance we had to exercise to avoid the millions of lobster pot buoys – we were never able to really relax for fear of picking one up with a rudder. We did, once, but quickly freed it.

Wednesday was Eggmoggin Reach. We motored down to Bucks Harbor at the beginning of the reach and cruised through for a look. We then sailed about half way down Eggmoggin Reach to the Benjamin River. This was a relatively short day and allowed for a walk up on shore for the Captain, Admiral and the two doggy mates, Abby and Quincy. A definite locals harbor, we were the only cruising visitors. Another nice, quiet anchorage.



Benjamin River sunset view

On Thursday we sailed the rest of the Eggemoggin Reach and down into “Merchant Row”, a group of islands south of Stonington, Deer Island. These are very beautiful and truly what one thinks of when thinking of Maine cruising, rocky and pristine. Unfortunately, all the anchorages we tried were TOO DEEP. Not feeling comfortable anchoring in water 20’ deep at low with a 10.5 ft tide, we cut north into the Deer Island Thoroughfare, past Stonington, and along the west side of Deer Island into Crocket Cove. No one there but Y Not!





Stonington, Deer Island Thoroughfare





Crocket Cove Anchorage

Friday morning was a little overcast with no wind, so we motored west to the Fox Islands Thoroughfare, which divides North Haven from Vinal Haven. The adventure included many opportunities to view seals, dolphins and a few great herons. First stop was the North Haven Casino (Yacht Club) where we tied up for a trip into North Haven village to find a shower, lunch, lobsters, and ice (in that order!) All of our needs were met at the JO Brown Marine where we got showers (\$5 per shower, expensive due to shortage of fresh water on the island) lunch at the Brown's Coal Wharf restaurant, lobsters and ice back at Brown's. Due to lack of wind, this was the only day we didn't sail. We ducked around the corner into Perry Creek on Vinal Haven for the evening's anchorage; this was my personal favorite as we tucked way down into the creek and it was gorgeous. Dan took the dingy about a mile further into the creek at high tide, but at low tide we were as far into the creek as a "big boat" could anchor, even a MacGregor. Tides are an amazing phenomenon.



Perry Creek anchorage

On Saturday, we motored out of the Fox Islands Thoroughfare and into West Penobscot Bay. After some patience, the wind eventually sprung up and we had a nice sail back to Rockland. We put the boat on the trailer and drove up to Camden for a stroll around town and a great dinner on the harbor as we watched the Windjammers come and go, not to mention all sorts of other lovely boats. Unfortunately, I forgot the camera on the boat and thus did not get any pictures. ☹

We slept again in the Rockland Ramp parking lot and took down the boat for a sad ride home on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. While it wasn't really a rendezvous, and we very much wish that someone had been able to join us, we understand that we are lucky with our summer schedule. It was a trip that I will always remember and we are ready to do this again. Just ask us!

And now, back to reality. School begins next week, so we must make our classrooms ready and gear our heads for the responsibility of molding young math minds.

Fair winds,  
Dan and Nancy Dobbins  
S/V Y Not