

Friday June 11

0830 at the market to buy fruit and veg...only got bananas and tomatoes...and a woven basket to put them in on the boat

Big deal today is the boat race at 1700....

Peter G has already got his dodger down...I can't take mine down without a lot of trouble...so just remove the back half..Peter and Graeme from Pacific Jewel are crew....we make a great start and chasing Adamite in second place....just ahead of PG on Viveka...we hold our place past the first mark, but then the wind drops and slowly Viveka is inching up on us...we have rights so we try to head up as close as possible to force PG to tack around the moored boats before the second mark, but we can't pinch up enough and he cuts inside us just after the tack...we stick with him to the third and fourth marks.... But there's a funny rule that allows boats of less than 30ft to miss the 3<sup>rd</sup> mark and go directly to the 4<sup>th</sup>..a small blue boat "Neuromancer", just bought by a Spanish girl from a Canadian from BC, takes this option and gets to mark 4 before Adamite....we nearly catch Viveka at the 4<sup>th</sup> mark, but the breeze (?) dies again, and we are all tacking to the finish line..

Breeze never got above 7 knots and at times was 0 !

Result : Neuromancer crossed the finish line first, then Adamite, Viveka, Diva...and the rest of the fleet quite a long way behind ... so pretty good really !

Prize giving (we got a voucher for a Pizza..I gave it to the crew), beers and hamburgers at the Mermaid bar after...very pleasant....

For the technophiles ..... the boat systems are working well and are well balanced in their requirements... running the engine, with its 110A alternator and fridge compressor for 60-90 minutes in the morning, keeps the 420 Ah battery bank charged, makes plenty of hot water, keeps the freezer frozen, and allows us to generate 35-40 litres of fresh water. Contrary to some opinions, our freezer gets down to -28degC and never gets above -12 degC overnight.... even though its on the starboard side of the boat (faces north (ie the sun) at anchor) and the hull is dark blue...thanks Darrin, you did a GREAT job with that condenser. The water maker is wonderful, only draws 8-9A and only used when the engine is running, the water tanks are full up every day !...even use fresh water to wash the dodger screens every few days ! Hot showers every day... sheer luxury !

After another week of cruising around on Friday June 18<sup>th</sup> the new crew arrives...Chrissy White is here to come to Fiji / Vanuatu....off to the airport in another typicalTongan taxi to pick her up..plane is late of

course...back to Neaiafu too late for the boat race, but drinks all round and a bbq dinner with Peter greacen from Viveka and a good time had by all.

Down to the market Saturday morning to get a few fruits and vegetables...pretty meagre this week...and we're off to Port Maurelle again, teaching Chrissy the basics of the boat systems...its clear straightaway that she is quick to learn and PG gave her the "OK" so we'll be right !

After a week of crusing around, snorkelling, sailing etc we're back in Neafu harbour ready for the Friday night boat race. With Peter from Pacific Jewel on the sheet winches and Roo from the big Halberg Rassy with Chrissy managing the engine off/on and assisting Peter with the fast tack, we almost won...kept a rather fast little trimaran at bay and out manouvered a large NZ yacht Impetuous to cross the finish line very close behind Neuromancer, the boat that won last time....but they sail a shorter course...so a victory of course...celebrated with beers and bbq at the Mermaid bar / Vavau Yacht Club.

A feature of the race was one of the big double hulled NZ Wakas, one of 3 here doing a tour of the pacific...they were fast downwind, but tacking was a real issue for them...cast of thousands on board...all having a great time...Pics below.



A fantastic sight, we saw the three of them coming into Vavau under sial, and they camn move along very well !



DIVA first at the second mark



The battle to Mark 3



We're gaining on the girls on the trimaran...bimbos ?..not on your life..medical students form the UK



Just about to round mark3



On the way to the finish 1



Packing up after the race

Peter, Chrissy, Roo

Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup>...a wet dull day in Neiafu harbour.....

Tomorrow we prepare to go to sea...departing Monday for Lautoka.

That's all for now folks...next episode from Fiji !

Cheers !



Victory drinks !

Roo, Alan, Peter, Chrissy – what a team !