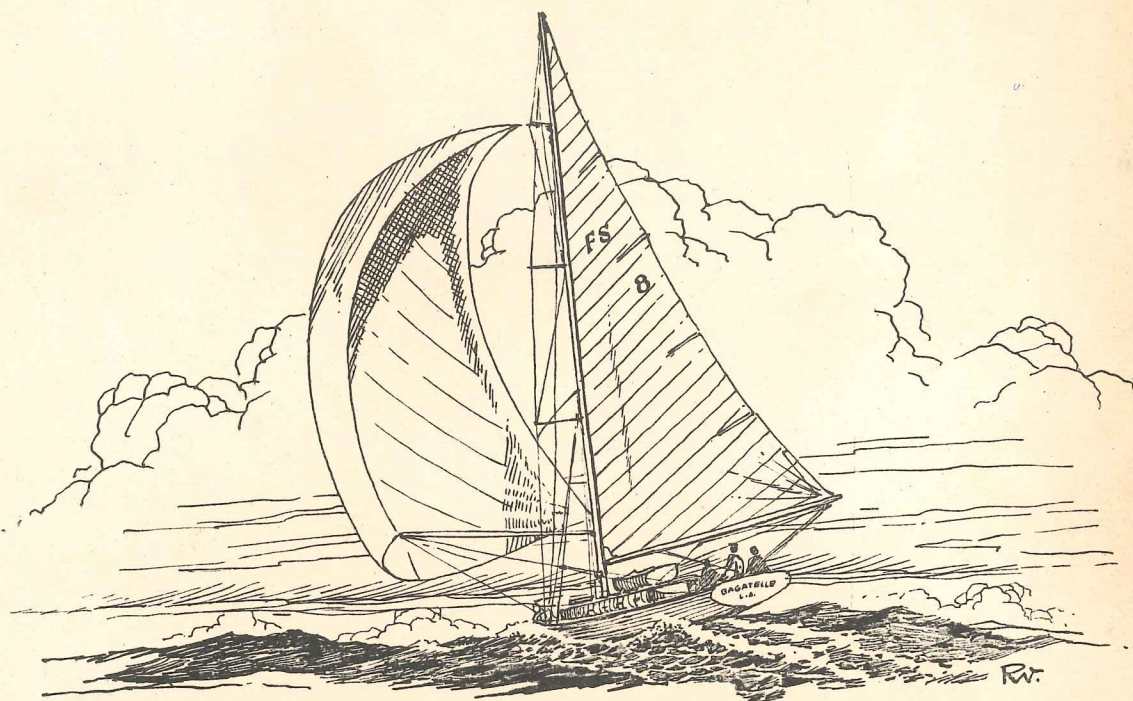


LOG
BAGATELLE
TRANS-PACIFIC YACHT RACE
1955

Log of the yacht...



BAGATELLE

TRANS-PACIFIC YACHT RACE

1955



Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.
 Day Monday Date July 4, 1955
 Logged Account

Time	Account
1200	<u>START!</u> full and by on the port tack. An excellent start to a great adventure. all hands are alert to stations amid the excitement of this epic yachting event. The surrounding mass of white canvas, the shout of clear commands and the rattle of winches aboard 55 of America's finest sailing yachts beginning a trans-ocean voyage of over 2250 nautical miles, is recorded in this log to help preserve the memories of a magnificent adventure. This is to be "a first" trans-Pacific crossing for all hands, with the exception of Bixby, a veteran of trans-ocean racing. Wind SW-force 1, sea, calm, sky clear and slightly hazy, visibility approx. 15 miles. Tacking offshore with competing yachts to gain windward gage; bound for Honolulu, T.H., great circle distance 2250 nautical miles.
1245	Pt Fernin whistle buoy abeam to starbd. Wind increasing steadily and veering in to west.
1345	Tacking $\frac{1}{2}$ mile offshore between Whites Point and Portuguese Bend. "Baruna" was observed to put about and return toward Pt. Fernin buoy. It is assumed she elected to clear the buoy correctly.
1355	"Escapade" appears to be aground at a position approximately 300 yards offshore, Easterly of
midnight • noon position ▶ type latitude longitude days run	

Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.
 Day Monday Date July 4, 1955
 Logged Account

Time	Account
0900	Preparing to get underway to participate in Trans-Pacific Yacht Race, Los Angeles Harbor to Honolulu, T.H. Presently moored at California Yacht Anchorage, Los Angeles Harbor, San Pedro, California. Vessel is provisioned and equipped to comply with U.S. Coast Guard regulations and Trans-Pacific Yacht Club requirements. Ship's complement: Bill Zinsmeyer, owner and skipper; Mark Hulsmann, sailing master; Dan McKinney, navigator; Peter Serrell, meteorologist; Llewellyn Bixby, watch Captain; Edward Dillingham, assistant navigator; Verne Ruppert and John Pearcy, watch standers.
1000	All visitors piped ashore. All gear and provisions secured for sea.
1020	Unmoored and underway, departing California Yacht Anchorage, San Pedro, Calif. on various courses and speeds, standing toward starting area under power. Final instructions and affectionate best wishes are bestowed by wives and sweethearts at the dock.
1100	Approaching starting area, doused main engine, set all plain sail.
1130	Tacking and wearing in vicinity of starting area for preliminary gage of starting line between U.S.C.G. Cutter Tresham and Los Angeles Harbor entrance buoy. Set large genoa.
midnight • noon position ▶ type latitude longitude days run	

Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.
 Day Monday Date July 4, 1955
 Logged Account

Time	Account
	Portuguese Bend. They have a diver over the side, and appear to be surrounded by ample assistance. We have decided to continue on.
1420	Depart mainland on the starboard tack from a position 1 mile SE of Portuguese Bend Pier, course 180°, speed 5.5 knots, wind, WSW-f1
1500	Wind increasing and letting us up to course 210°, speed to 7 knots, weather clear & warmer.
1825	Catalina Island West end abeam to port. It is estimated we are the 10th boat around. Eased sheets and standing out to sea. Secured tacking stations and set all sea watches. Course 195°, speed 7 knots. Sail trimmed for maximum speed on the highest course feasible - for we are bound for the trades! Wind W, f-3 and increasing.
1900	Wind increasing to force 4, speed 8 knots.
1920	Blew genoa! Pearcy and McKinney foreward to douse sail.
1930	Set working fit, underway as before, speed 8 k. The night watches are wet but pass uneventful. The wind holds strong in the West.
midnight • noon position ▶ type latitude longitude days run	



Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.

Day Tuesday Date July 5, 1955

Logged Account

Time	Account
0000	Underway as before, all's well. Course 200° M, speed 8 K, wind W, force 5
0800	Held morning position report with cutter Gresham. Wind continues to freshen. Seas are rising and lapping and frequently coming aboard. The morning is wet and breakfast is a "forage caper" in the galley.
1200	Plotted noon P.R. A cloud hidden sun is not available for sights. Mark Bulzmann calls for a reef in the main. Wind increasing to force 6 with rising seas. This is becoming similar to "submarine duty."
1300	Much of the crew has succumbed to the inevitable "green plague." The score is now 5 to 3 with "sacks loaded" Navigator, who is assigned to the Salon settee provides extra cushion for crew who casually sit on head and feet!
1400	Sky clearing, wind holding to force 6. The ship is wet and driving. Most of the crew is sackbound. Watches are re-set to manage steering with minimum surviving crew.
1800	Course 225° M on a close reach. Evening watches pass wet and uneventful.

midnight • noon position ▶

DR	31° 46' N	120° 15' W	150 m.
type	latitude	longitude	days run

Logged Account

midnight • noon position	type	25° 28' N latitude	128° 18' W longitude	186 nm. days run
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Logged Account

midnight • noon position ➡	type	24° 24' N latitude	131° 19' W longitude	165 m. days run
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Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.
 Day Sunday Date July 10, 1955
 Logged Account

Time	Account
0000	Underway as before under main only. Course 235° m, speed 5.5 K, wind NNE, f-2, bar. 1025 m; weather, cloudy; sea, moderate.
0100	Observed increasing bend in boom gooseneck, due to dipping boom in sea on occasional deep roll.
0700	Set spinnaker. Sighted mast of vessel hull down on port quarter.
0800	Held morning roll call with cutter Fresham. Observed that "Kiriwai's" reported position corresponds with vessel sighted earlier. "Nalu" appears to be holding North & doing well. "Flying Cloud" reports North and slightly East - a better position.
0930	Doused main to repair bent gooseneck. Speed appears to remain at 7 knots
1000	Skipper and Serrell man cockpit blacksmith's shop to repair gooseneck gear.
1200	Plotted noon position
1220	Gooseneck gear repaired and rerigged. Reset main
2100	Took single reef in main to keep boom out of water
2110	Bix on the helm, takes a green one aboard through forward hatch flooding Skipper's bunk.
midnight • noon position ▶ type 23° 40' N latitude 134° 39' W longitude 202 m. days run	

Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.
 Day Monday Date July 11, 1955
 Logged Account

Time	Account
0000	Underway as before, all's well. Course 255°M, speed 6.8 K, Wind NE, f-2 Bar. 1024 m. - scattered clouds, sea moderate. Ship is sailing beautifully under a bright star studded sky
0800	Held morning roll call with cutter Gresham. John Kearcy seems to be feeling better. May it be recorded here that <u>nothing</u> has injured his appetite!
0930	Doused regular spinnaker, set big cross cut.
1100	John Kearcy manages a 30 min helim trick
1400	all hands air bedding. Wind is light, sky is clear A pleasant sail for a bright and warm afternoon.
1830	Wind working aft letting us up.
2000	Squalls bearing down from windward.
2300	Hard squall on our stern, speed increased to 8 knots.
2315	Squall increasing in force - ship is difficult to control, spinnaker is wild!
2320	Doused spinnaker
2345	Squall passes, wind eases, reset spinnaker.
midnight • noon position	type latitude longitude days run
	23°02'N 138°12'W 200 m.

Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.
 Day Tuesday Date July 12, 1955
 Logged Account

Time	Account
0000	Underway as before, all's well. Course 245°m, speed NE K, Wind NE, f-3 bar. 1024 m; weather, partly cloudy; sea, mod.
0100	A strategy conference between "Snake" Bix and Mark decides that we should stand above a course of 240°m, nothing to the left.
0400	A beautiful night and the moon still shows the quarter. The seas seem a bit larger a night and the road rougher.
0800	Held morning roll call with the cutter Gresham. Reports indicate we are South of "Nalu II" and "Flying Cloud". The "Constellation" is nearing a finish and "Nam Sang" reports a good position.
1030	The wind veers more in to the East, bringing us up to a course of 265°M.
1100	May it be recorded here that we have a boatload of electricians! Verne, Ed, Bix, Bill & Pete combine efforts and the sparks fly!
1200	Plotted noon position
1330	Doused large spinnaker, set regular chute.
1800	Changing spinnakers. Skipper enthusiastically ups and - 2 to go.
1930	Peter is smoking??
2200	Navigator gets a star fix. It's a beautiful night and the starbed watch remains on deck swapping scuttle butt over a warm beer.
midnight • noon position	type latitude longitude days run
	22°39'N 141°23'W 187 m.

Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.
 Day Wednesday Date July 13, 1955
 Logged Account

Time	Account
0000	Underway as before, all's well. Course 255° M, speed 7 K, wind NE, f-3 bar. 1023 m; weather, partly cloudy: sea, mod.
0150	Wind easing, slacked pole fore'd and heading up toward cloud cover.
0430	Cloud cover works! Bauled pole aft and squared away on course.
0800	Held morning roll call with cutter Gresham. Reports indicate large boats are pulling ahead with plenty of wind. Bagatelle is outdistancing "Flying Cloud." "Nalu II" appears to lead in class "C", Kealoe running second.
1000	Pete rigs up shower on the fantail. All hands take much needed salt water baths. Even Dilly is scraped.
1100	After scrubbing crew and airing bedding, weather below decks is less "smoggy."
1200	Plotted noon position. Course and speed is good but as wind tends to veer in to the East, Mark keeps mumbling something about <u>five ho!</u>
1730	Verne contacts flight 79 of United Air Lines. We are surprised at the clarity of communications. It is rumored that the smug look on Verne's face has something to do with Christian Science.
1900	Ed manages to get on helm during chow.
2100	Doused large spin. Set night chute.
2300	A wild ride on a beautiful night. Wind is rising to force 4 plus!
midnight • noon position ∇	
	type 22° 31' N 144° 55' W 202 m. latitude longitude days run

Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.
 Day Thursday Date July 14, 1955
 Logged Account

Time	Account
0000	Underway as before, all's well Course 255° M, speed 8 K, Wind ENE - f-4 Bar. 1022 m; weather, partly cloudy with squalls. Sea - rising and capping.
0030	A hard squall on our stern, we are wet and driving.
0130	Noted what appears to be lightening flashes ahead.
0330	Squall still with us, she's driving and rolling hard. Considering striking spinnaker.
0345	Doused spinnaker in heavy squall, set working fib, running wing and wing.
0530	Could carry spinnaker but more squalls threaten astern.
0800	Held morning roll call with cutter Gresham. Reports indicate that the big boats are finishing. "Morning Star" finished at 1205 AM Thursday, setting a new record. Charted positions reveal that "Nalu II" is leading in our class with "Kialoa" second. Bagatelle is moving up.
1100	Set large cross cut spinnaker. Wind is easing and has settled in the East.
1200	Plotted noon position. Lowered main to check halyard and rerig topping lift
1230	Main up and squared away, wind steady, a great run.
1650	A happy spot in the trip for Dan and Mark as their Gals pass over at low altitude on Pan- American flight 942. Our radio contact is loud and clear. It is rumored that we might be on course
2130	Brighter paning to starboard. Wind is up again.
midnight • noon position ∇	
	type 22° 31' W 148° 12' W 180 m. latitude longitude days run

Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.
 Day Friday Date July 15, 1955
 Logged Account

Time	Account
0000	Underway as before, all's well. Course 250° M, speed 7 K, Wind ENE, f-3 bar. 1022 m; weather, clear; sea, moderate.
0100	A hard rain squall. She's a bit tough to steer.
0300	A wonderful sail - the stars are unbelievable
0430	A smooth watch - rumored to be as good as "Pabst Blue Ribbon!"
0650	Enjoying the last of the moon for this trip.
0800	Held morning roll call with cutter Gresham. Reports, as usual, loud and clear.
1200	Plotted noon position
1500	The afternoon watch passes warm and pleasant.
1515	Navigator observes sun for L.O.P. Plotted good running fix with L.A.N. Chart indicates 305 miles to go.
1700	A wild ride on a squall. Skipper rides this one out at the helm.
2100	Verne joins Dilly's club 9-4 NOTE: A birthday party is held at evening chow for the "nervous navigator". The crew, via Bixby presents the Nav. with a birthday cake and one _____. (It is rumored that even "Snake Serrell" is jealous of the present!)
2130	Spinnaker clew carried away - doused spin., rerigged and reset.
2230	Popped! Took one over the stern into the ballicrafter - no more Hawaiian music.
2300	Took a long reef in the main to reduce yaw.
midnight • noon position ▸ type latitude longitude days run	
22°30' N 151°20' W 183 m. latitude longitude days run	

Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.
 Day Saturday Date July 16, 1955
 Logged Account

Time	Account
0000	Underway as before, all's well. Course 250° M; speed 7 K; wind ENE. f-4 bar 1022 m; weather, partly cloudy; sea, mod.
	Shook out reef in main and doused spinnaker. Port watch decides to run without spinnaker until dawn or until wind eases a bit.
0800	Held morning roll call with cutter Gresham. (It is completely dark at this zone + 8 time, as local time is much earlier) Reports plot that "Nalu II" and "Kialoa" will finish this afternoon. It appears that Bagatelle will beat "Eleuthera" in, but it will be close if she can save her time.
0830	Navigator gets a good star fix. (It is proclaimed as pure skinny-arsed luck!)
0930	Reefed main and set spinnaker.
1200	Plotted noon position. Sailing master holds cockpit conference and decides the moment has come for the big fibe!
1215	Doused spinnaker
1245	Fibe ho! no strain, reset spinnaker.
1515	Getting R.D.F. bearings on island radio aids, plotted as 120 miles to go (you hope - Verne)
2000	A beautiful sail in to a magnificent tropical night.
2200	The Skipper breaks out a bottle at the Captain's dinner - all hands splice the main brace!
2300	LAND HO! Sighted Molokai Light bearing 170° m. We are roaring for the line!
midnight • noon position ▸ type latitude longitude days run	
22°10' N 155°05' W 210 m. latitude longitude days run	

Yacht Bagatelle From Los Angeles Har. to Honolulu, T.H.
 Day Sunday Date July 17, 1955

Logged Account

Time	Account
0000	Underway as before, all's well. Course 230° M; speed 8.5; wind E x N - f - 4-5 Bar 1024 m; weather, clear with broken clouds, sea - rising and lapping. The crew scents the good land and much eagerness and enthusiasm abounds about the ship. The breeze is strong and the seas are building up as we approach the famed (or notorious) Molokai channel.
0115	Doused spinnaker
0200	Sighted Makapu Light dead ahead. The wind is freshening, driving Bagatelle at 8 knots under main alone.
0400	Makapu Light abeam to starboard. Ed, at the helm, wins prize for taking aboard biggest sea in whole crossing.
0500	Attempt to set spinnaker and jibe in Molokai channel. Our spinnaker halyard is worn to the last thread!
0515	Approaching finish line - all hands man the rail.
0534	<u>FINISH!</u> Diamond Bead Light abeam to starboard! Crossing time: 12 days, 18 hours, 34 min, 54 sec.
0545	Welcoming power craft and tug "Bana Bana" alongside. Doused all plain sail. Proceeding under tow to Ala Wai moorings.
0630	Moved stern to the quay at Ala Wai Yacht Basin, Honolulu, T.H. We have arrived in the arms of our sweethearts and are "soaking up" the greatest yachting reception of all time! Aloha nui malahini!



midnight • noon position

type	WHO CARES latitude	JUST RIGHT longitude	160 MORE OR LESS! days run
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NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN EASTERN PART

SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS
HEIGHTS IN FEET

