

AKAMA Report 13a

It took us several days after our return to KK to thaw out from our 6-week trip to Canada. After a decade of living in the tropics what we once thought to be nice fall weather now seems darned cold. Still, it was worth it, as we had a wonderful time visiting with relatives and friends.

AKAMA was in perfect shape upon our return. However, she threw a bit of a temper tantrum the next day, no doubt a bit miffed by our absence. We switched on the computer and it promptly blew up with a loud crack, a blown power supply. The water in our tanks had become sour and needed shocking with bleach. The wing engine refused to start, requiring a visit by a mechanic; of course, when he arrived it roared to life on the first try. The generator set would not generate; the same mechanic did a little light fiddling, and put it back together without finding anything. It began working properly for no apparent reason, only to fail a week later. He changed the voltage regulator and pronounced it fixed...we'll see. The bilge pump switch in the mechanical room packed in, resulting in a little insignificant flooding until we located the problem. And so it went; our first full day back was a bit frustrating.

One of the neat things about cruising is the people we meet, both the locals and other cruisers. One of the cruisers, Gary, is a chef, which means that our pot luck dinners are often quite spectacular. However, sometimes things don't quite work out as planned. Recently Gary discovered what appeared to be raw macadamia nuts in the market. He roasted them and brought them around as a snack for sundowners. They were quite good and most of us ate several handfuls, although we opined that they did not seem like macadamia nuts to us. They weren't; they were candlenuts, among other things a strong laxative. Louise-Ann was the first to succumb, rushing back to the head barely in time. One by one, most of us felt the urgent call of nature.

We've spent the past 6-weeks or so getting AKAMA kitted out for our next voyage; we leave on Saturday 13 December (we'll probably be on our way by the time you read this). We hope to have lots of interesting things to report about, as we hope over the next ten months to go from Sabah, Malaysian Borneo to New Zealand, via Papua New Guinea, The Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. Since this trip will take us into very remote areas, we've had to stock up on everything from avocados to zucchinis. The freezer is full, as is the one in the fridge. All the pantry areas are so full that not one more can or packet will fit.

We hope that everyone has a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hugs & Best Wishes to all,
Maurice & Louise-Ann