



## Log Entry # 7 – Houdini Crew arrives in San Diego, or ... When buying zincs is like buying shoes, apart from what the clerk says...they gotta fit!

We once again met up with the Houdini Crew from Emerald Harbor Marine (EHM), our marine contracting company, out of Seattle to complete some final details of our refit. From previous logs you may recall the descriptor 'Houdini Crew' ... which was coined Larry Schildwachter, owner of EHM about his crew as he would say... when I want them, they disappear!



Dan & Jim of the Houdini Crew

The Houdini's (Dan and Lance) and I finished our gig list while Suzan attended to last minute stuff back in Seattle (banking arrangements, boat insurance, updated boat survey, medical insurance) you know those nagging details that only she does so well, if left to me to do...the outcome would be problematic at best.

### Going for the Zinc!

Suzan worked with Fisheries Supply located in Seattle to further provision MaaMa with last marine hardware items need to make repairs while at sea or the next "exotic port". While we needed zinc's, I made the decision to purchase them in San Diego so as not to incur the cost of shipping due to weight as each weighs about 10lbs and we need 12 (3 changes of 4)...what an error in judgement. You would think that San Diego would have fabulous marine chandlers given the number of boats in here. Believe it or not, there is only the omni-present West Marine and several smaller outfits. But, I was sure I could find the correct zinc's for our "Maxprop" propellor, but my shopping only lead me back to West Marine. On enquiry, they said they had the correct size zinc's in inventory, but none were in store, so the clerk orders them from the catalog for store delivery. When they arrived they did not even come close to the configuration needed for our prop...not to be outsmarted this time, I brought in a correct zinc and presented it to the West Marine employee who told me that the zinc 's they procured were correct. They went on trying to convince me these were the 'new' design!... well... phooey...not even close. So when I rejected the order of their 6 zinc's at \$87.50 each the 'manager of all things sailing' argued that 'I the customer' was wrong, that West Marine had procured the correct zinc's! I requested that he physically compare my zinc with his...he finally gave in and agreed that they were not even a close match. Thus back to the catalogue where it was discovered the West Marine catalogue product numbering of Maxprop was incorrect... imagine that? Needless to say I did not purchase zinc's from West Marine... fortunately I found 4 at a small local marine hardware store...oh...and for whole lot le\$\$.

Compliments to all of the staff at Fisheries Supply in Seattle and to Carl Sutter, owner. Carl, until we'd been away from Seattle and your fine chandlery, we didn't appreciate the resource you've provided us in Seattle...thanks from Michael and Suzan...yes, we will keep purchasing from Fisheries even from offshore. .

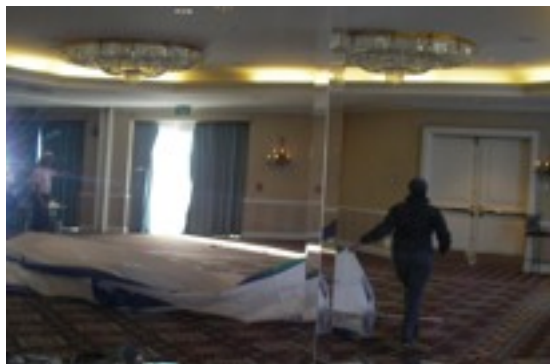
### We are in heaven!

If you haven't taken any boat trips, you may never have thought about marinas and their facilities, or lack thereof. There is nothing quite so fabulous as a long hot shower and given the size of our on-board shower and limited water capacity, you use the opportunity to use the marina's bathhouse. A guidebook



*Christmas @ Loew's Coronado*

and rating system for marina showers is needed. Marina's are typically run by the local port authority or county government which usually means concrete buildings and plastic stall showers that should have been replaced years ago. Every marina has its quirks - such as Bodega Bay - you need to press the button every minute or the water turns off. Or you wear your special shower shoes because there is no way you want to step onto the floor. To be fair, there is often a correlation of amenities to the price of moorage, but not always. The moorage fee for a buoy tie in Newport Harbor was \$3/foot... or \$156/day without power! And you need to take a tender to the shower.



Using the Ballroom to change out the sails... nothing's too good for MaaMa!

We had great difficulty finding moorage in San Diego but finally ended up at the Loew's Crown Island Marina in Coronado. This is one of the most fabulous marinas we have ever seen... because it is connected to the hotel you have use of all of the hotel facilities including the "Spa" with steam, sauna, jacuzzi, tennis courts & 3 swimming pools to choose from. And the "shower facilities" came with towels, sundries & bathrobes... no need to drag your kit and towel through the lobby! We are ruined!

Fair Winds \_/) Suzan and Michael