

1-18 Santispac to Punta Chivato 1-19 to Santa Rosalia

1-18 The weather report was calling for winds from the NW at 10 to 15 increasing to higher speeds in the later afternoon. We were not sure we wanted to go but we wanted a cushion in case we were stuck somewhere since we had to pick up Nick in Phoenix on the 7th of February. About 11 am we made the decision to go ahead and make a try for Punta Chivato 25 miles to the north. Arni had decided to leave for Punta Chivato also, so that helped in the decision process.

We motored north in light northerly winds for several hours and cleared Pt. Conception in the early afternoon. By now the wind was picking up and the seas were getting a bit choppy but nothing the boat could not handle. After a few more hours we had crossed the large sandy bay and were approaching Punta Chivato 24 miles from our starting point that morning. It was here that we had first made landfall when we crossed over from San Carlos in early December. By now the wind was a bit more westerly but getting stronger so we decided to spend the night here. I went ashore and looked around but the restaurant was closed so I couldn't take Alice out to dinner. There were a couple of Americans who had some nice water front homes and we talked for a while, one of them, it turned out, knew our dentist back in Oregon. We went to bed not sure if we could leave the next day but not worried.

1-19 Punta Chivato to Santa Rosalia



1-19 The next morning along with Arni on "Arbaleste" we left for Santa Rosalia another 37 miles to the north. Always good to have a plan B and C. If we couldn't make it there due to the weather, we could either turn back and shelter under Punta Chivato or duck under the lee of Isla San Marcos; something we didn't want to do as San Marcos has a big gypsum mining operation and produces a lot of dust drifting over the lee part of the island. The Google Earth image at the right can provide an idea of the route and for perspective the southern most point to the

nearest point of land is 3 miles. We were actually able to sail around Punta Chivato and north towards San Marcos Island for about an hour or so until we had to tack and motor sail north through the channel between 5 mile long San Marcos and the mainland. It was here that we were crossed by a large school of dolphins, perhaps 50 strong. Shortly after, the wind picked up with gusts close to 20 knots but we were getting a bit of lee from the island which helped. Finally, after several hours we were able to bear off to the west and head for the opening to Santa Rosalia's harbor.

We motored into the harbor (more about its history later) and made a turn to port to the first set of docks belonging to Fonatur Marina. Arni came in a short time later and after doing the paper work for the marina we all went out to find something to eat. A long day but a successful one. It looked like we might be here for some time before the next weather window would open.

