

Just Another Day at the “Office”..... Almost



A career in the business of boat sales is exciting for the most part. I meet some very fine people as you rarely meet a boater that you didn't like. I spend almost every day on customer's boats or on my own, so I do get my share of time on the water.

My excitement comes in two parts 1) seeing the smile on a customer's face when he/she gets that new boat, and 2) the freedom to cast the lines when the time permits and do some cruising on our schedule. Granted, I work 7 days a week, every week, but as my computer is wireless, I can be almost anywhere and still answer emails or manage this website. Going to visit a customer or his boat is the only thing that requires travel.

During the recent June school holiday, my wife, daughter and I spent six days cruising to Tioman Island just hanging out and stopping to smell the roses. There are many sights that await us boaters, both on the water and on land that are off the beaten path; you just have to know where to look to find them.

Tioman has always been the favourite getaway for boaters here in Singapore with its crystal blue waters and nice laidback island lifestyle. The island has in many ways been a magnet for tourist but getting there has always been by road and ferries. Once you're on the island, as a tourist you are basically stuck at the resort you are putting up, with occasional snorkelling trips to outlying islands or hiking within the island.

Exploring other places surrounding Tioman isn't always convenient or easy to arrange with the resort operator or you simply ended up with a bunch of other tourist on the same boat while your original purpose was to get away with your own family.

For boaters on your own, there are many mooring that are out of sight of human activity. Getting to Tioman on your own boat, especially smaller size powerboat below 30-feet and running on gasoline engine set-up have always been near to impossible due to the availability of berthing, shore power supply and refuelling options while at Tioman.

But this has changed over the past 2 years with the completed marina at Tekek, Tioman. The distant between Singapore to Tioman is approximately 135 nautical miles, 6 hours of cruising at 26 knots and a little longer between 20 – 22 knots.

As a convoy, I've organized several trips to Tioman and the surrounding vicinity for Chaparral boat owners over the past years but have never done it alone on a smaller boat without any mechanic onboard mechanics or having a support/utility boat along the way. It was a personal journey i have always wanted to undertake with my family in tow and to have a sense of adventure to explore the island at our own pace.



Mooring off Bejaya Beach Resort, Tioman

Getting to Tioman on your own boat, especially smaller size powerboat below 30-feet and running on gasoline engine set-up have always been near to impossible due to the availability of berthing, shore power supply and refuelling options while at Tioman.



Nongsa Point Marina, Batam Indonesia

We departed from our home base at RSYC Friday early morning and the first stop was to Nongsa Point Marina in Batam, Indonesia. The journey is about an hour away after immigration. Our purpose was to visit the recently completed marina and we moored overnight to explore the place which has been nicely sprung up after the renovation. The docks are new, food was great and the people are just simply helpful.

Tinggi Island is a large inhabited island, which rises 2000ft. above the sea level. Tinggi Island is known for its mystical quality as much as it's sheer physical beauty. It comprises the principal Tinggi Island, and eight smaller islets, namely Mentinggi Island, April Island, Nanga Kecil Island, Nanga Besar Island, Simbang Island, Lanting Island and Iboi Island and Peyembang Island.



The newly renovated marina at Nongsa was our 1st stopover

The following day, we made the 3 hours journey up north towards Pulau Tinggi averaging 24 knots for most of the journey. Nicknamed the “General’s Hat Island” by Chinese seamen hundreds of years ago,



The “main” jetty at Pulau Tinggi, Malaysia

Following a quiet and peaceful overnight at Pulau Tinggi, we motored the final 30 nautical miles north to Pulau Tioman. Crystal-clear turquoise waters surround the island of Tioman Island. The interior of this island is mostly covered with secondary dense rainforest. It is endowed with fresh waters, a sheltered harbour on the west side and coral reefs which abound with prolific marine life.

It has a long rocky coastline and several white sandy beaches. The seas around it are teeming with coral, fish and reef making it a great place for some snorkelling which we did for days.



Joey cannot contain her joy after arriving Pulau Tioman



Refueling at Tekek Marina, Tioman



One of the best prata shops just outside of the marina

The island is surrounded by small islets, with Tulai being one of them. There are numerous activities that one can embark upon when on a visit to this island. The presence of a jungle allows one to go for jungle trekking. One can get to see different kinds of marine life and birds over here. The waters are teeming with different species of tropical fishes and other sea creatures. There are numerous fruit trees that one can get to see on this beach island. Mooring for boats can be easily found along the west and southern side of the island for a safe and calm overnight stay if berthing inside the crowded new marina does not attract you.



Sheltered mooring at Pulau Tulai, just 4 nautical miles off Tioman

Living onboard a small boat does not necessarily mean sacrificing on amenities as the Chaparral Signature 270 was well-equipped with factory-fitted generator which we ran for most of the trip, including powering up the onboard air-conditioning during the night inside the cabin. The 270 comes with refrigerator/freezer, microwave and electric stove so putting together a meal was just as easy while onboard entertainment includes CD players with MP3 plug, LCD TV matted to a DVD player.

But the fun at night just before tucking into the bed was simply star gazing. The surrounding dark bay means the night sky was lighted up with stars and simple astrology lesson was taught to my daughter on how to identify those obvious ones. After a hot shower and a nice supper cooked with the onboard electric stove, all 3 of us slide comfortably inside the blanket for a restful sleep.



Mooring at Renggis Island, just off-Berjaya Tioman Resort



Mum giving home tuition to Joey onboard the boat



Mooring at one of the many sheltered bay around Tioman



Cartoon time for Joey onboard just before bedtime



Fishes will come up close to nibble any food you put to them

The journey was exciting as boating bond us closely together with quality time to enjoy the scene, smell and excitement that boating can offer.

Chaparral Signature boats are great weekend getaway boats, evidence over the past few years as there have been more Chaparral boats making successful trips beyond Singapore and returning with great fun and story to share. A further testament to Chaparral popularity here in Singapore and their capabilities and qualities.

Distant cruising can be fun and easy to plan for the whole family and once you've done it, you'll yearn for more adventure and excitement.

Happy Boating!

Eric Koh - sgboating@singapore.com



Mum & Joey behind the transom of the trusty Chaparral 270

ABOUT CHAPARRAL BOATS



Chaparral Boats was founded in 1965 by William "Buck" Pegg in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The company's bellwether boat at the time was the 15' Tri-Hull with a sticker price of \$675. Although the tri-hull was discontinued in the early 80's many remain in commission today. In 1967 fire destroyed Chaparral's Ft. Lauderdale facility. The company re-built in Ft. Lauderdale. In 1976 Chaparral Boats had outgrown it's Ft. Lauderdale production facility and was looking to expand and moved its headquarters to Nashville, Ga and was incorporated in Georgia, where it remains today.

Soon after re-location James "Jim" A. Lane (CPA) joined the company as President, a position he still holds today¹. In 1986 Chaparral Boats was purchased by RPC Energy Services (NYSE:RES) of Atlanta, GA. In 2001 RPC spun off Marine Products Corporation (NYSE:MPX). This offering included Chaparral Boats, Inc and Robalo Boats, LLC . Chaparral currently manufactures pleasure and fishing boats ranging from 18' sport boats to 40' yachts in it's Nashville, GA facilities.

Click to View The Chaparral Story;
[A Story of Strength and Stamina](#)