

BROKEN COMPASS DISPATCH

THE VAN RODEN
TWIN'S WORLD VOYAGE
ABOARD THE BROKEN
COMPASS CONTINUES:



WE ARRIVED AT THE SMALL MARINA OF PEDEGRAL, in Panama, after navigating up a narrow river about 6 miles. The country is amazing. The cost of living is about one-third the price of the States. The Broken Compass is anchored in the center of an estuary with mangroves, which has an abundance of wildlife – including monkeys playing in the nearby trees. Bret and Nicky (Bret's girlfriend) stayed with our boat while Tyler and I (Chad) took a seven-hour bus ride to Panama City.

The city has areas prone to violence – military personnel stand with automatic weapons on each block corner – and there are also nice areas, including a mall that appears to be imported from the U.S. We explored the city, picked up solar panels for the Broken Compass and won some money at a local casino before we returned. Bret and Nicky had a difficult time as security guards.

Bret's description: "Nicky and I took Makai (the van Rodens' Siberian Husky) on a walk; Makai deterred the thieves who patrol the Pedregal River. We returned to see our companionway door ripped open; the boat had been ransacked. Every drawer was open with clothes and valuables strewn on the floor. Apparently, the thieves left in a hurry, because we found out that the only missing items were our two GPS units and \$200."

For a "Voyage of the Broken Compass" intro, plus **Web-exclusive blog entries and pictures**, go to ocmetro.com and click on **In This Issue**.

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