



The Circumnavigation of the "Patriot" Catalina 36 Sailed by: Craig Mortensen

Catalina 36 Patriot and her skipper Craig Mortensen returned from their circumnavigation on June 29, 2007. They departed San Diego on April 1, 2003, making the 3000-mile crossing to the Marquesas in 23 days. Their odyssey took them across the South Pacific to Australia, with stops at the Society Islands, Tonga and Fiji, where Patriot spent the tropical storm season of 2003/2004 on the hard. In May 2004, Patriot was struck by a whale in the Coral Sea on a passage from Vanuatu to Papua, New Guinea. She took on no water, and continued 600 miles to Cairns, Australia, with no engine propulsion. From Australia, Craig and Patriot sailed to Bali and Singapore. She crossed the North Indian Ocean in January and February 2005, literally in the wake of the resulting tsunami – negotiating a 100 mile debris field near Sri Lanka before stopping in the Maldives. They had a brush with pirates in the Gulf of Aden. After passing through the Suez Canal in April 2005, the next 18 months were spent cruising the Med, then crossing the Atlantic to enjoy winter in the Caribbean. Patriot concluded the adventure by transiting the Panama Canal and sailing to Hawaii, with a final 19-day passage to Astoria.

Craig and Patriot always had additional crew for the various passages.



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