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from the helm



The Latest Trends

During the early '90s, I bought my first boat that didn't tip when I stood on the gunnels. I was immediately taken with cruising, as was my wife, Linda. Although, at that time, most cruisers stayed pretty close to home.

My friend John Wooldridge, who is now the editor-in-chief at *PassageMaker* magazine, joined us for a Gulf crossing, the culmination of our trip south in our 46 Grand Banks. It was, give or take, a 16-hour run from Apalachicola, Florida to Clearwater. Also

included was a three-day wait for good weather. It was during the wait, and hours of boat talk, that John turned me on to Robert Beebe's *Voyaging Under Power*. Beebe, a retired naval officer, was crossing oceans aboard the trawlers he designed and built.

After being briefed by John about Beebe's book, I learned that Jim Leishman, one of the partners who formed Nordhavn boat company, had completed a revised edition of Beebe's *Voyaging Under Power* that was printed in 1994. If long-distance cruising interests you as it does me, get the book. You will enjoy the experience. This book helped launch Nordhavn, and it could help launch you.

Heidi and Wolfgang Hass have circumnavigated the globe twice aboard their 46 Nordhavn, *Kanaloa*. See "Second Time Around" on page 39 and then check out nordhavn.com for more inspiring adventures. Circumnavigating, once the sole domain of sailors, is becoming routine for Nordhavns.

Another trend that has gained in popularity is kayaking. This past summer I bought an Ocean Kayak. It's one of those that you sit on top of. I can circle the island we live on and get a nice workout, plus a pleasant cruise. You can get into fascinating spaces with a draft of 3 inches. I can put the kayak in my 25-foot center console and take it to an interesting area, just drop it in and go.

For a little more adventure, see page 30. Steve Lutsch and his friends have tackled Lake Superior. This is serious stuff; this is Mother Nature on steroids.

A kayak is probably the best way to see and get the feel of the lake and shoreline of Superior. I envy the guys. The only thing I would change if I were along would be to try to do the trip when the flies were on vacation.

Enjoy,



A couple aboard a Nordhavn travel around the world...again.

Only one year had passed since Heidi and Wolfgang Hass had finished their circumnavigation of the globe in their Nordhavn 46. But they decided once just wasn't enough.

The Hasses left Southern California in 2003 on their boat *Kanaloa*, named for the Hawaiian god of the sea. Over the next five years, they put 4,839 hours on their Luger engine and 33,567 nautical miles under their keel. They visited their favorite destinations, including the northern territory of Australia and the Archipelago of Chagos in the middle of the Indian Ocean, before arriving at the Nordhavn headquarters in Dana Point, California.

In all those hours at sea, the only breakdown suffered was to *Kanaloa's* starboard

paravane boom, which snapped off in Mozambique in southeast Africa. Shifting winds, strong currents and choppy waves caused fish to jump, putting undue stress on the paravane. The boom was later repaired in what Heidi calls "island style," but it held up. "It did a great job all the way to South Africa in an 18-foot swell from the southwest and 12-foot seas from the northwest."

The trip wasn't without its scary moments. Near Thursday Island in Australia, Wolfgang and the couple's dog Zulu were riding to shore, when a 25-foot crocodile surfaced right next to the tender. "Australian crocs are one of the most dangerous in this world," Heidi said. "Totally unpredictable, they are known to bite right through any kind of dinghy—plastic, aluminum, it doesn't make any difference to them. Their favorite meal? Dogs." Thankfully, the Norfolk terrier was not on the menu that day.

Unbelievably, this actually marks the third circumnavigation for the Hasses, who, prior to buying their Nordhavn in '95, underwent the journey on board a 38-foot Van Dam sailboat. Yet of all their global treks, Heidi says this most recent one was their best, thanks to Zulu, who forced her owners to be more social. Not only did the couple change their cruising habits—opting to move mainly at night in sync with Zulu's sleeping schedule—but dog-walking requirements prompted them to explore more of the lands they visited. And people naturally were drawn to the dog.

The adventurous German-born couple layed over in California for several months, giving *Kanaloa* a tuneup and attending a congratulatory party hosted by PAE. But, not surprisingly, they won't stay landlubbers for long. Next year they plan to head back to what Heidi describes as their favorite cruising grounds: the South Pacific. After that, they might continue on to China to visit Zhai Mo, a single-handed sailor who became a good friend.

"*Kanaloa* is ready for new adventures," Heidi says, "and so are the three of us." 📍

CIRCUMNAVIGATORS Heidi, Wolfgang and Zulu Hass (right)
Travel around the world aboard *Kanaloa*.

