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## Estrela returns after six and a half years of voyaging

IN NOVEMBER 2003, DOUGLAS AND KYLE HOPKINS AND THEIR daughters Eliza, 9, and Abigail, 12, left Long Island Sound for what was to have been a two-year voyage around the world aboard their 32-foot sailboat, *Estrela*.

After selling their home and cars, the family set sail for Florida and the

Caribbean followed by a Panama Canal transit to the Pacific. Their travels took them to Indonesia, Australia, Africa and South America. While repairs and maintenance may have slowed them down along the way, it was the Hopkins intent to extend their voyage and explore the world that prolonged the trip.

Along the way, the girls were 'boat schooled' by their parents and kept family and friends informed and sharing their experiences via SailMail and blog entries.

This past June, the family returned safely to Connecticut aboard their no-worse-for-wear West Sail 32, having circled the globe on a what became a six-and-a-half-year family adventure.

Now ashore, the Hopkins' will be putting down roots in Buffalo, N.Y., where Doug, a former environmental defense lawyer, will be teaching environmental science and his wife Kyle, theater.

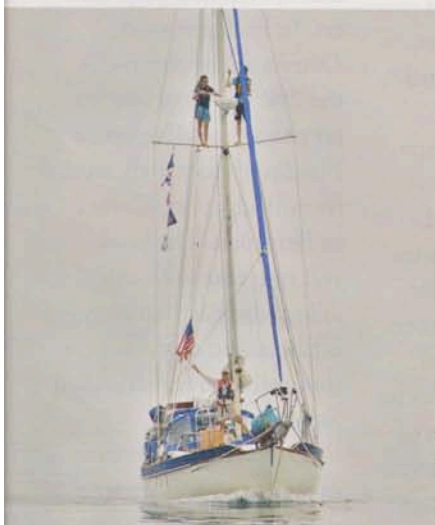
For their full story and an archive of their blog visit: [www.sailingestrela.com](http://www.sailingestrela.com).



TrawlerFest staff photo

## ON trophy winners at Trawler Fest

DAVID LEE AND SUSIE DAKERS WERE RECIPIENTS OF THE *Ocean Navigator* Trophy at this year's Trawler Fest Anacortes, held at the Cap Sante Marine at the Port of Anacortes, Wash. The trophy honors those who have traveled the farthest to attend the festival, now in its third year. Lee and Dakers, who own a 2006, 55-foot Nordhavn, *Last Mango*, traveled from Panama to the state of Washington, qualifying them to receive the honor.



Larry Untermyer

« Returning to Connecticut after more than six years of voyaging, the Hopkins family arrives at the Ned Dimes Marina in Westport, Conn.

## FROM RUNNING FIX, THE ON BLOG



Stop by *Running Fix*, our *Ocean Navigator* blog. Here's an excerpt: "Ralph Mothes and Paloma Werner were enjoying a pleasant sail off Cape Town in



*Running Fix*  
OCEAN NAVIGATOR BLOG

South Africa when a Southern Right Whale launched itself out of the water next to their boat. This was an exciting sight, for a few seconds

anyway. Until the whale landed on their sloop and dismasted it." Visit the blog at: [www.oceannavigator.com/running\\_fix](http://www.oceannavigator.com/running_fix).