

Nick & Rosie
Sail Around the World

Q4 update

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April 2009

Mission Accomplished

It is said that more people have been to the top of Mount Everest than have sailed around the world - we are now proud to join this illustrious group as on March 28th in St Lucia we completed a life dream and crossed the finish line of our round the world odyssey as planned, 18 months after we started with an Atlantic crossing in November 2007.

Now we can't forget the 15 months pre planning that made this trip possible—but it does prove the old adage, that precise planning and preparation prevent poor performance. We never set out to race around the world and tend to leave that to our Volvo friends - however in our trip there were racing legs, where points mean prizes— and yes we did win overall the inaugural World Cruising Round the World Rally .

Our reflections on Sailing “RTW” are many and this is not the place for them, suffice to say we look forward sharing tall tales, economic, political and environmental observations with you when we finally get to see our readers in person again.

This is our last newsletter, we hope that the combination of this and the blog has made been interesting reading for you and an easy format to follow our adventure —if not we apologize for clogging up your mail box

Nick & Rosie - St Lucia March 28th 2009



Start Line Cape Town another fantastic sunset



TIT BITS

- We won the Heineken Cape to Bahia race (cruising division) Mike Slade's "ICAP Leopard" one the racing division
- Overall stats :134 nights at sea, 45 different anchorages, 12 marinas, 25795 miles sailed, 24000 liters of fuel, mostly charging batteries & running air con!

The next challenge - finding rewarding work in a changed economy



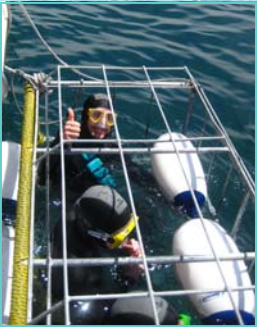
No one could predict the changed world to which we are returning—indeed some have said we were very lucky with our timing—to be “out of town” for the worst economic down turn in over 60 years. When we set off we were non committal about what we would return to—as we just didn't know how we would feel on finishing. I am happy to say we are looking forward to returning to some semblance of our lives before—be that in Value Creating Real Estate & Facilities, or in Rosie's case leading Image management for the best brands and photographers in the world. Undoubtedly we have developed many new skills while at sea for such a long period - patience been a big one—you can't change the weather or the sea state! So we are now on the look out for our next challenge and will be back in the UK ready to re connect in person from the 21 st April. If you have ideas that might excite us, please do get in touch.

Cape Town Part Two



Great white shark dive not to be forgotten & In the cage—hearts beating.

Cape Town is such a great city - it was great to return to after our flying Christmas visit to London , Hamble & Dublin . Good food , good wine and great company . Not to mention cage diving with great white sharks , A fantastic new years ever party down on the waterfront and the endless hospitality of the Royal Cape Yacht Club—who were the host club for the Heineken Cape to Bahia race - (the old Cape to Rio race) - everyone likes a drinks sponsor when it comes to pre race parties .The value of the rand makes South Africa such an attractive country—and the place where we had the most consistent good food



As part of the trip it was great to be able to meet up with old friends , and catch up on gaps of too many years - we are grateful the generous hosts who opened the doors to us - half expecting to be receiving weather beaten , smelly sailors and were presently surprised



Dinner for 10 at Buitenverwachting vineyard, Constantia

The Leg from cape town to Brazil was over 3900 miles & 23 days at sea –by far the longest we have sailed

Niall Mellon Township Trust - not to be forgotten

Without a doubt one of the most touching moment s of our trip was to come across the Niall Mellon Township Trust in South Africa , we continue to figure out ways in which we can help them , in particular set up a UK registered charity , to enable tax efficient giving for residents of the UK , in the US people can donate via the Ireland Fund, and in those in Europe can donate directly via the online Euro section of the NMTT website. Please do take the time to read about this remarkable charity and give when you can .—With my previous experience in social housing , this is beyond anything I could ever imagined . I hope to return to my voluntary role on the board of Network Housing Group (a UK RSL) but will definitely support the NMTT in what ever way I can ,over the coming years .



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St Helena Island in the South Atlantic

Measuring only 6 miles by 10 St Helena is a curious little bit of England stuck in the middle of the South Atlantic - while we have all heard of the Falklands (much further south) and Ascension Islands—because it has a military airport—St Helena’s has no Airport and not a very sheltered harbour— but it’s one claim to fame is that it is where the Emperor Napoleon was exiled after the battle of Waterloo in 1815. Baring in mind that he had previously escaped from Elba—the British took no chances - while Napoleon lived in relative comfort and was allowed a lot of freedom on the islands—the Army placed a garrison on the island , and constantly had 2 naval frigates circling the tiny outcrop— Another famous visitor was Edmund Halley—who visited in 1677 to look at the stars and discovered more then he expected !

For the 5000 islanders the only way on and off is by the twice monthly “ Royal Mail Ship” which goes to and from Cape Town . Jamestown the main port is like the set of the 60’s TV program Heartbeat , half days Wednesday , closed for lunch , and very quaint architecture with all the modern conveniences - including the least likely requirement of an island society—Traffic Wardens ! - We loved the island and enjoyed eating in 2 of the 3 restaurants that is has - but St Helena will never be a mainstream tourist spot—the big local debate is whether or not the British Government should fork our for the cost of an Airport for the Island - me thinks Gordon Brown has better things to do with £1Billion!



877 steps—takes 45 mins to climb or 5 mins in a taxi





We arrived in Salvador to find that we had won line honours in the Cape to Bahia race , beaten over the line by only Leopard and Rambler—world rebound race boats, we received a warm and liquid reception from the folks of the Royal Cape and Heineken . 3921 miles, 22 days after the start - we think this is the longest race an Oyster has ever taken part in let alone won Salvador is a lovely old town , originally the main port and once capital of Brazil - the last place the Portuguese gave up – the very smart Yacht Club made us all feel very welcome and the sights around the huge swimming pool would make your eyes water. Slowly the rest of the fleet, racing and cruising divisions arrived , exhausted from the tough conditions Mike Slade and his boys may have won over all - but no competition as to who had the most comfortable ride. Other highlights of Salvador included, the local muggers coming out in force to welcome all the sailors - thankfully no one on Kealoha was targeted – but others lost money , watches and in one case a wedding ring , suffice to say South America can be a dangerous place if you don't take precautions .

There is only so long you can stay in the hot & humid port of Salvador – as soon as the Prize giving was over, we headed out to cruise the Bay of Santos and visit some of the off lying islands - amazing to think that there are over 1000 islands mostly Caribbean in their appearance off the coast of Brazil we had a great time aboard and ashore – We particularly enjoyed the Ile Morro Sao Paulo a tiny island where there are no cars and everything is transported in wheelbarrows - arriving in time for the full moon festival – which was to serve as a warm up for carnival 450 miles up the coast saw us arriving in Recife – home to the world record breaking Carnival - and for many the main attraction of travelling to Brazil - 5 days and nights of parades , parties, floats and fun. The opening event – Midnight Rooster Festival was in essence a street party for 1.5 million people! With every type of music you could imagine , and costumes that would shame a costume hire shop – We were lucky that the local tourist authority was well prepared for the arrival of the World ARC fleet and laid on some great vantage points for viewing and getting really involved in the Carnival



Granada & the Caribbean

So nice to be back in warm , clear waters of the Caribbean , where it is safe to swim and snorkel—funny how we have both spent a lot of times over the years sailing and racing in these waters , and never really appreciated them - as we were too hardened as racers—now that we have learned to cruise in style , we enjoy revisiting these great places , but with a different eye—we still want to find the best sail maker , and engineering company etc., but from now on we also want to search out the best isolated beaches , which is getting harder as more people head to the island chain - if your going sailing or just visiting in the West Indies, Grenadians, or Granada , do call us for . For the last month of our trip we have had a fantastic time , and made many more friends ashore and afloat . St Patrick's day in Granada - will live long in our memories , as will the wonderful beaches and hideaway locations we discovered . We are in the fortunate position of been truly able to compare the different oceans and seas—so if you have the time and are careful with your money—head to the South Pacific—where it does help if you speak French , otherwise the Caribbean wins out every time, even with the decreasing value of the pound . So if you have that dream to sail , these are the perfect places to start—who knows you may get the bug as bad as we did and end up making life changing choices



If you come visit— expect to be entertained by the outstanding photos Rosie has taken over 8,000 of them!

PHOTO GALLERY



www.sailingrtw.typepad.com



K8 at Sunset



We visited all these countries
flags of RTW


Facilitate GB Ltd , BBC , and
our parents made this possible

PUTTING LIFE AHEAD OF WORK & GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT

We are looking forward to getting home and starting a new life of sorts. Planning of course for our wedding. Initially we will return to Hamble as our tenants in London still have some time to run and moving straight back to central London may be a bit of a shock .

We hope to see as many of our friends as possible in Hamble over the summer—where the house is in fine shape and awaiting visitors. It wont surprise you to know that we are planning our 2009 sailing season in the UK, which looks to be a mix of big and small boat racing –ranging from 12 meter day racing to a possible Fastnet– we must be mad !

We could never have made this trip without the support of our friends and family special thanks has to go to our parents who put up with us adopting a vagabond life style for 18 months. Without sounding like academy award winners, we would like to thank Richard Matthews & Alan Brook from Oyster for setting us up with Kealoha in the first instance, David Holliday for having us onboard for 18 months. To the friends old and new who we met along the way who were so generous with their time and hospitality, we feel confident that the experience we shared with many of the other RTW sailors, will be the basis of lifelong friendships. It has also been great to see how such an adventure has bought us back in contact with old friends some of whom we had not been in touch with for over 20 years—something we will correct going forward

At regular occasions we have shared with sailors around the world a very old naval toast - which we think sums up our views on friendships .

“ There are good ships and wood ships , and ships that sail the sea, but the best ships are Friendships and may they always be”

Only 35 People sailed round the world

Some may say that this was a glorified jolly Round The World - the reality is that 38 boats started in St Lucia , of which only 14 of the original starters finished—from which only 35 people sailed the whole way round - so we are very lucky to be members of a very select group. In the 18 months we made life long friendships and had experiences together we will never forget. For Rosie and I this trip will remain with is forever not only did we get engaged we also had the honeymoon before the wedding.

Finally for those interested in the race results : We were 1st in Class & 1st Overall in a race round the world

