

Our Goal

Circumnavigate Vancouver Island - August 29 to October 4, 2009

Before Setting Out

We, my husband Ron, and I live aboard and sail our 45' Hunter Centre Cockpit aptly and ceremoniously named Ta Daa. How we chose the name is another story for another time. Our intentions were to depart Victoria mid June for an adventure sail around the island. Suffice it to say, numerous events prior to June were grounds to postpone our trip until the end of August. We had done our research and admitted that we had missed the best weather window. Nevertheless, we decided to give it a go; after all we have five weeks. Some skippers have taken less time, some skippers more time. As with many BC sailors, our trip around the island was to be a shakedown cruise to practise for offshore sailing.



In preparation for this trip we spent energy, time and money to upgrade Ta Daa to our standard of readiness. Some skippers would have done more and some less. We installed emergency and safety equipment, purchased the appropriate Canadian Hydrographic paper charts and, filed a detailed sail plan plus. Needless to say, we stocked our vessel with necessities such as food, medical supplies and reference materials.

Leaving home port, Westbay Marine Village, to circumnavigate the island was a milestone in our lives. We set out with a feeling of amazement, excitement and a touch of anxiety – we were actually leaving. We couldn't help but wonder what, if anything, we shoulda or coulda done to better prepare for this much dreamed of trip.

Under Way

Awaiting us, for the next five weeks, were waters we had not yet navigated and conditions that would test our skills. In reality we encountered good times with family and friends, fair weather, fog, unrelenting rain, unfavourable weather forecasts and on occasion perfect sailing conditions. Mother Nature rules the world – at least our world. We learned to be flexible and patient when it came to making decisions that could have been potentially dangerous to crew and boat.



Storm after storm hit the northern end of Vancouver Island. Our vacation clock was ticking. We had already forfeited days due to fog and the lack of daylight. Ron and I decided to abandon our dream. We altered course at Port Neville and headed to Campbell River. We were certainly disappointed – I would be lying if I stated otherwise. To ease the disappointment we agreed to head home by way of places we had never visited and through passages we had not yet sailed. By doing so, we encountered pods of orcas, viewed stunning scenery and challenged our abilities without compromising safety.



Docked – But Not For Long

Ron and I can never spend too much time together. We are a true partnership. Ron's strengths are my weaknesses and vice versa. Did we fail? Absolutely not! Without a doubt, we whetted our appetite for more.

Stay tuned! Planning is underway to circumnavigate Vancouver Island in June 2010.

Visit svtadaa.blogspot.com for more details and pictures of their 2009 trip.