



Talk Report – Sailing in a Changing Climate – Steve Everett

So last night Steve and his wife Katrin travelled up from Hastings to regale us with a talk on sailing around the world, and just what a sailor can experience in terms of weather and climate.

There were about 22 people in the clubhouse, and another 12 on Zoom, so a reasonable audience.



Let me just give you a few words: Storm Olga, ARC, Maury, Galapagos, Pilot Chart, Rangiroa, Tahiti, Tonga, Medicanes, Bali, Mumbai, Salalah, Pirates.

Steve bought and equipped a Taswell 49, but encountered non-forecast heavy weather (Storm Olga) on his initial crossing from the Azores to St Lucia, losing the use of the Autopilot, and needing to hand-steer in 30 minute shifts to weather the storm. Self-steering gear fitted in St Lucia helped overcome this difficulty, but many new ones presented themselves, such as needing a new generator, essential to cross ocean cruising, as they continued on their ARC around the world.

Winds that didn't blow, doldrums that only lasted for 45 minutes, December hurricanes that had only happened 4 times in the past century. Rain, rain, and rain, tropical storms of lightning circles – they saw it all.

They also saw Blue Footed Boobies, marine Iguanas by the score, Orca whales (from a tourist boat!), Komodo dragons, crocodiles, Monserrat spouting it's volcanic smoke, Tambora – or what was left of it - as it was the largest ever volcanic eruption, which blew several billion tons of rock as high as 140,000 feet into the air. They mixed with exotic islanders wearing plastic skirts and little else, some slightly dodgy characters, ate food of dubious origin wrapped in palm leaves, and came out smiling at the other end.

A serious pirate incursion into the northern Arabian Sea area, enabled because of unusually calm conditions, caused the main group of boats to follow a view of safety over adventure, and they detoured to Salalah in Oman. Another yacht, continuing, was not so fortunate, was

boarded by pirates, and the crew sadly were killed. A mother ship was hired, and the 20 yachts were cradle-welded to the main deck, went through the Suez Canal and unloaded at Marmaris. And from there through the Med to home.

The talk was well-illustrated with masses of pictures of remote island, anchorages, people and wildlife, and told with a degree of wit and anecdotes. When asked if he could continue to the end, the audience universally said "Yes", and Steve received a thoroughly-well deserved round of applause at the end.

Whilst some of us see a Channel crossing as an adventure, our eyes were truly opened to life on the oceans, and looking over your shoulder as to what the weather was doing, or not doing, instead of what it was supposed to do! There is no doubt that Steve and Katrin overcame adversity on many occasions, and as we saw, are so much more enriched as a result of their Round the World adventure!

**NEXT WEEK - December 12th 2023. Commodore's Christmas Party.
Clubhouse 20:00.**