

SEPTEMBER 2021

# UNDERWAY

NEWS and NOTES from the CRUISING COMMUNITY

Edited by Jennifer Brett

## NEW YORK MOMENT

When my wife, Catherine, and I lived in New York over 14 years ago, we never anchored *Dream Time* by the Statue of Liberty—not once. We never even considered it. It's not that we didn't have the skills, or that the 25-nautical-mile trip from Long Island Sound down to New York Harbor is particularly challenging; it just never really occurred to us that we could.

New York City was where we went to work; the harbor was a place where ferries, cargo ships, tugs and tourist boats went about their busy business. I guess when we did have any free time, we wanted to sail in the sound and just relax in a quiet cove somewhere. Taking the boat down the East River, timing tides, dodging traffic, well, maybe it just felt like too much work.

**The Hockleys celebrated closing the loop of their circumnavigation by finally anchoring at Lady Liberty's feet.**



NEVILLE HOCKLEY



## PASSAGE Notes

### NSHOF Class of 2021

The National Sailing Hall of Fame has announced its inductees for 2021. The 11 accomplished sailors include Olympic medalists Lynne Jewell Shore and Gilbert T. Gray, America's Cup and Whitbread sailor Dawn Riley, and a Lifetime Achievement Award for Capt. Bill Pinkney, the first African American to solo circumnavigate via the capes. The class of 2021 will be inducted during a ceremony in Newport, Rhode Island, on October 16.

### Totem's TLC

The Gifford family have become CLODs — cruisers living on dirt. Fortunately it's only a temporary move as *Totem* spends some much needed time at the boatyard in Puerto Peñasco, at the top of Mexico's Sea of Cortez. With some serious work to do on the boat and weeks of temperatures above 100 degrees, the small nearby apartment will make life on the hard easier. "We don't have to call a pump-out truck. There are a couple of air conditioners, and the freezer freezes things!" says Behan in a recent blog post. Read more at [cruisingworld.com/sailing-totem](http://cruisingworld.com/sailing-totem).

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But here we are. It took us a while—a 14-year world voyage, which we've just completed—but we finally did it. We anchored *Dream Time*, our 1981 Cabo Rico 38, right in front of Lady Liberty between the ferry channel and the restriction-area buoys that surround Liberty Island. It reminded us of anchoring on the other side of the world, off the Sydney Opera House for New Year's Eve after we had finally crossed the South Pacific. Like then, we had the best view in the entire harbor—only this time it was the Statue of Liberty right off our stern, downtown Manhattan, the Hudson and the East River off the port bow.

To celebrate our arrival back home after sailing 50,252 nautical miles, we raised every courtesy flag we've flown around the world—37 of them. We must have looked quite the sight. Other boats motored past; *Miss New York*—one of the Ellis and Liberty islands' ferries—official tourist boats, jet skis, and

a parade of helicopters flew endless sightseeing circles above. And *Dream Time*, in all her colors, was right in the very middle of it.

For the record, we weren't in the way—we were anchored in 10 feet of water and out of the channel—but I suspect, 14 years ago, even if we had visited Liberty Island, we never would have been so bold. Ferry wakes, tidal currents and the general mayhem of the harbor probably would have had us anchor behind Liberty Island where other recreational boats seem to drop their hooks.

Maybe we're a little more adventurous now. Or perhaps, like our arrivals in Panama, Sydney Harbour and Singapore, we just want to get the most from our sailing experiences. We're willing to go the extra mile, to make the effort, like two energetic, enthusiastic cruisers arriving in New York for the very first time, even though we now live here again. —Neville Hockley

## SAILOR-FRIENDLY VSAT

Satellite-communications systems are great for accessing the internet and staying connected to family, friends and business while cruising far-flung places. The trouble for most sailors is that very small aperture terminals—the dome antennas needed for satellite access—typically require rack-mounted belowdecks equipment and AC power. Until now, KVH's new TracPhone V30 (\$11,995) draws 10 to 36 volts of DC power and employs a small belowdecks VSAT hub that's roughly the size of an at-home Wi-Fi router, making it an easy fit aboard a wide range of cruising sailboats.

The TracPhone V30's radome is 15.5 inches wide by 17.6 inches high and weighs a little more than 23 pounds; inside, there's a stabilized antenna. Once installed and networked, it transmits data at speeds up to 2 Mbps and downloads it at up to 6 Mbps using Ku-band frequencies on KVH's proprietary mini-VSAT BroadbandSM network.

"When we started the TracPhone V30 project, the number-one request was for DC power," says Robert Balog,

KVH's chief technology officer.

The TracPhone V30 is ideal for making phone calls, running enterprise software, downloading GRIB files, web surfing, streaming high-definition content, and participating in Zoom video calls. However, as with all KVH VSAT systems, it works only on the company's network. While this eliminates comparison shopping for airtime plans, it also means that a single tech-support call can tackle both hardware and network issues.

"We offer two types of airtime

plans: metered and unlimited," says Jim George, KVH's director of satellite sales, adding that most customers select unlimited plans. "Metered plans cost 50 cents per megabyte and are for customers who use their boats on the weekends." KVH's unlimited plans cost between \$150 and \$3,000 a month and deliver between 200 megabytes to 10 gigabytes of high-speed data (see KVH's website for details). Once a customer hits their data limit, the system downshifts to slower speeds, and unlimited-plan customers aren't charged for slower-speed data use. Customers can change or suspend their metered or unlimited data plans at any time. Finally, the TracPhone V30's single cable makes for easy DIY installations.

So, if you're interested in making longer cruises but need to stay connected, the TracPhone V30 could be ideal, especially if belowdecks space and AC power are in short supply. —David Schmidt



PHOTO COURTESY THE MANUFACTURER; PHIL UHL (OPPOSITE)

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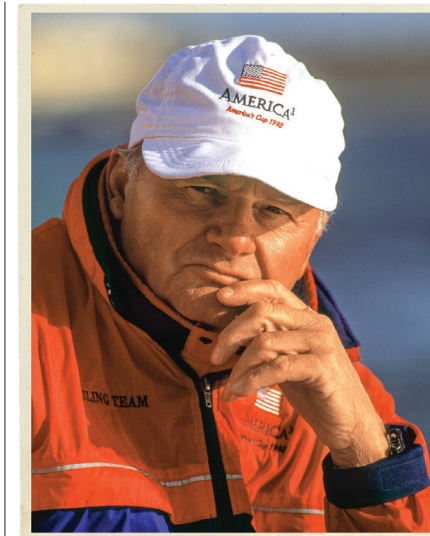
## NEW DOCUMENTARY TELLS THE BUDDY MELGES STORY

Buddy Melges is one of the all-time best sailors that the United States has produced in the past 70 years. His resume includes an Olympic gold medal, helming an America's Cup yacht to victory, being named Rolex Yachtsman of the Year three times, and winning dozens of world and national championships in Stars, Solings, E Scows and many other classes. Melges is a hero to generations of sailors based on his tireless mission of helping other aspiring sailors to improve their sailing skills. A new feature-length film being produced by Mark Honer aims to tell the Melges story, which he describes as "a biography about the life and sailing career of the legendary Buddy Melges."

Over the past year, Honer interviewed sailors from across the United States and throughout the world who have raced with and against Melges. The list of interviewees includes America's Cup-winning

skippers Dennis Conner, John Bertrand and Bill Koch, Olympic gold medalist Bill Allen, equipment manufacturer Peter Harken, Scow champions John and Brian Porter, and filmmaker Dick Enersen. I was also lucky to be interviewed for the production. Buddy is easy to talk about because he has done so much on the water, and helped so many sailors over the course of his long career.

Mark Honer's production company, Destination Hope, goes by the name of DHTV Digital. He has produced many award-winning documentaries and television series. His film *Combined* recently won Best Story at the Sunset Film Festival in Los Angeles. He started his career as a reporter for CBS News and producing live sports for events that include college basketball's Final Four and the Winter Olympics. He has also produced reports on presidential campaigns.



Buddy Melges helped to steer *America3* to victory in the 1992 America's Cup.

*Melges: The Wizard of Zenda* is his first production on a sailor. He says, "Creating powerful, inspiring stories is our goal," and he picked a big name in sailing. The film is scheduled for release in early 2022. —Gary Jobson

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\*Wet Weight includes engine, rigging and fuel with Yamaha 25hp