

The Blue Water Medal Awards 1923-2004

- 1923 *Firecrest* ALAIN J. GERBAULT France
Left Gibraltar June 7, 1923, and arrived Fort Totten, L.I., exactly 100 days later. Non-stop. Dixon Kemp-designed British cutter, 34 feet oa. Single-handed.
- 1924 *Shanghai* AXEL INGWERSEN Denmark
Departed Shanghai February 20, 1923 and arrived Denmark via Cape of Good Hope in May, 1924. Double-ended ketch, 47 feet oa., built by native laborers. Crew of three.
- 1925 *Islander* HARRY PIDGEON U.S.A.
First circumnavigation-from Los Angeles to Los Angeles via Cape and Panama Canal, November 18, 1921- October 31, 1925. Home-built a 34-foot yawl of Sea Bird type. Single-handed.
- 1926 *Jolie Brise* E. G. MARTIN England
Double trans-Atlantic crossing, including Bermuda Race. LeHavre pilot cutter 56 feet oa. April 3, 1926 from Falmouth, July 27 to Plymouth.
- 1927 *Primrose IV* FREDERICK L. AMES U.S.A.
This 50-foot oa. Alden schooner had been sailed to England for the 1926 Fastnet. Medal was awarded for her return passage, from Portsmouth, north about, Iceland, Labrador, Cape Breton Island, 58 days to Newport, R.I.
- 1928 *Seven Bells* THOMAS F. COOKE U.S.A.
An eastbound trans-Atlantic passage, Branford, Conn., to Falmouth, July 5 to July 31, 1928. Roue-designed 56-foot oa. ketch.
- 1929 *Postscript* F. SLADE DALE U.S.A.
A 4,000-mile cruise in the West Indies with crew of two from and to Barnegat Bay, N.J. The 23-foot oa. cutter, designed by the owner, was subsequently lost with all hands under different ownership. No power.
- 1930 *Carlsark* CARL WEAGANT U.S.A.
A 13,000-mile cruise of this 46-foot oa. ketch from Ithaca, N.Y. to Ithaca, Greece, and return to New York City. Started June 20, 1929, completed May 30, 1930.
- 1931 *Svaap* WILLIAM A. ROBINSON U.S.A.
This 32-foot 9-inch oa. Alden ketch departed New London June 23, 1928, in the Bermuda Race of that year, and circumnavigated via Panama and Suez Canals with crew of two, except for period of race. Arrived N.Y. November 24, 1931.
- No *Jolie Brise* ROBERT SOMERSET England
Date Award for remarkable feat of seamanship and courage in rescuing all but one of 11-man crew of burning schooner *Adriana* in the 1932 Bermuda Race.

1933 *Dorado* RODERICK STEPHENS, JR U.S.A.
A three-month, 8,000-mile trans-Atlantic crossing from New York to Norway and return, including victory in the Fastnet Race. The 52-foot 3-inch Stephens-designed yawl returned home from England by the northern route in the remarkable time of 26 days.

1934 *Mav L* W. B. REESE England
A single-handed passage in a small double-ended ketch from England in the fall of 1933 to Nassau in January, 1934.

1935 CHARLES F. TILLINGHAST U.S.A.
“For his seamanship in the effort to save three members of the crew of the Hamrah who were overboard in the North Atlantic, and in bringing the disabled and short-handed ketch safely into Sydney, N.S.”

1936 *Arielle* MARIN MARIE France
A single-handed trans-Atlantic passage in a 42-foot 7-inch oa. motorboat (July 23 - August 10, 1936) with two self-steering devices. Marie had sailed the cutter Winnibelle II (without power) from Brest to New York in 1933.

1937 *Duckling* CHARLES W. ATWATER U.S.A.
A voyage from New York to Reykjavik, Iceland and return to Newport via Trepassey, Newfoundland, June 19-August 26, 1937. A 37 1/2-foot oa. Mower cutter.

No *Igdrasil* ROGER S. STROUT U.S.A.
Date Circumnavigation in a Spray-type cutter (eventually re-rigged as yawl) designed and built by owner. He and his wife circumnavigated via Panama and Cape of Good Hope between June, 1934 and May, 1937.

1938 *Caplin* CDR. ROBERT D. GRAHAM, RN England
Bantry Bay, Ireland, to Funchal and Bermuda, between April 20 and June 27, 1938, and then to West Indies. Graham’s daughter completed crew of two in 35-foot oa. yawl.

1939 *Iris* JOHN MARTUCCI U.S.A.
An 11,000-mile cruise from New York to Naples and return in a 36-foot oa. MacGregor yawl. The return home, including a non-stop 35-day run from Tangiers to Bermuda, was made after outbreak of World War II.

1940 BRITISH YACHTSMEN AT DUNKERQUE England
Awarded to British yachtsmen, living and dead, who had helped in the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force in June, 1940.

1941 *Orion* ROBERT NEILSON U.S.A.
From Honolulu to San Pedro, Calif., June 5, 1941- July 15, with one companion, on a 30-foot auxiliary ketch, 10-foot beam and 4 1/2-foot draft, designed by John G. Hanna.

Orion subsequently carried on through the Panama Canal to Tampa, Florida, a total distance of 7978 miles.

1947 *Gaucha* ERNESTO C. URIBURU Argentina
A cruise in a 50-foot ketch from Buenos Aires through the Mediterranean and to the Suez Canal and then to New York, following Columbus' route from Palos, Spain, to San Salvador.

1950 *Lang Syne* WILLIAM P. & PHYLLIS CROWE U.S.A.
From Honolulu around the Cape to New England, from Easter Sunday, 1948, to the spring of 1950. After the award the 39-foot oa., home-built Block Island type double-ended schooner completed her circumnavigation to Hawaii.

1952 *Stornoway* ALFRED PETERSON U.S.A.
A circumnavigation from and to New York via the two major canals in a 33-foot double-ended cutter. Single-handed, June, 1948-August 18, 1952.

1953 *Omoo* L. G. VAN DE WIELE Belgium
A circumnavigation by owner and wife one other, plus dog, from Nice, France, to Zeebrugge, Belgium, July 7, 1951 -August 2, 1953, via Canal and Cape of Good Hope. Steel 45-foot oa. gaff-rigged ketch. Said to be first steel yacht and first dog to circumnavigate.

1954 *Viking* STEN & BRITA HOLMDAHL Sweden
A circumnavigation by Canal and Cape of Good Hope by owner and wife from Marstrand to Gothenburg, Sweden, between June 17, 1952, and June 22, 1954. A double-ended 33-foot ketch converted by owner and wife from a fishing boat.

1955 *Wanderer III* ERIC & SUSAN HISCOCK England
Circumnavigation by Canal and Cape of Good Hope by owner and wife, July 24, 1952-July 13, 1955 in 30-foot Giles-designed cutter.

1956 *Mischief* H. W. TILMAN England
20,000-mile voyage of 50-year-old Bristol pilot cutter from England through Strait of Magellan, up west coast of South America, through Panama Canal and return to England, July 6, 1955-July 10, 1956.

No CARLETON MITCHELL U.S.A.
Date "For his meritorious ocean passages, his sterling seamanship and his advancement of the sport by counsel and example."

1957 *Landfall II* DR. WILLIAM F. HOLCOMB U.S.A.
Circumnavigation westabout from San Francisco of Schock-designed 46.5-foot oa. schooner via the Suez and Panama Canals, with side trips to South America, England, North Africa and New York: September 18, 1953- September 15, 1957.

1958 *Les4 Vents* MARCEL BARDIAUX France
Singlehanded circumnavigation westabout around Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope, in home-built sloop 30-foot 9-inch oa. From Ouistreham, France, May 24, 1950 to Arcachon, France, July 25, 1958.

1959 *Trekka* JOHN GUZZWELL Canada
Single-handed circumnavigation in home-built yawl 20-foot 10-inch oa. via the Cape of Good Hope and the Panama Canal. From Victoria, B.C. to Victoria, September 10, 1955 to September 10, 1959.

No *Lehg I, Lehg II, Sirio* VITO DUMAS Argentina
Date Global circumnavigation in Lehg II, 1942-1943. Other phenomenal single-handed voyages in Lehg I, 1931-1932; Lehg II, 1945-1947; Sirio, 1955.

1960 *Gipsy Moth III* FRANCIS CHICHESTER England
Winner of the first Singlehanded Race across the Atlantic in 1960, from east to west across the Atlantic.

No *Seacrest* DR. PAUL B. SHELDON U.S.A.
Date Extended cruises along the coasts of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador.

1962 *Adios* THOMAS S. STEELE U.S.A.
Two circumnavigations in a 32-foot ketch; one in 1950-1955, the other in 1957-1963.

1964 *Pen-Duick III* ERIC TABARLY France
Winner of the second Singlehanded Race across the Atlantic from Plymouth, England to Newport, R. I. in 27 days, 1 hour, 56 minutes.

1965 *Delight* WRIGHT BRITTON U.S.A.
From New York to Greenland and return with his wife, Patricia, as sole crew.

1966 *Joshua* BERNARD MOITESSIER France
From Moorea, west to east, around Cape Horn to Alicante, Spain. His wife, Francoise, was sole crew.

1967 *Gipsy Moth IV* SIR FRANCIS CHICHESTER England
Single-handed passage around the world, via the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn. Stopping only at Sydney, Australia, the distance was 29,630 miles for the whole voyage.

1968 *Lively Lady* SIR ALEC ROSE England
Singlehanded circumnavigation with stops only at Melbourne, Australia and Bluff, New Zealand. He departed Portsmouth, England on July 16, 1967 and returned to that port on July 4, 1968.

1969 No award was made.

1970 *Elsie* FRANK CASPER U.S.A.
Extended singlehanded cruising including one circumnavigation and numerous trans-Atlantic passages.

1970 *Carina* RICHARD S. NYE U.S.A.
For meritorious cruising and ocean racing.

1971 *Whisper* HAL ROTH U.S.A.
A cruise of 18,538 miles around the Pacific Basin, with his wife as crew, aboard a 35-foot sloop.

1972 *Awahnee* DR. ROBERT L., NANCY, AND REID GRIFFITH U.S.A.
Since 1959 this family has cruised over 170,000 miles. Notable voyages include the first Antarctic circumnavigation, the first windward (east to west) circumnavigation south of all continents, and a circumnavigation via the canals.

1973 *Tzu Hang* BERYL AND MILES SMEETON Canada
For many years of voyaging in the 45-foot ketch, covering, thousands of miles in all latitudes, climaxed by an east-to west rounding of Cape Horn, where they had twice previously been dismasted, in 1968.

1974 *Angantyr* JAMES W. CRAWFORD U.S.A.
With ten trans-Atlantic crossings, plus a circumnavigation, perhaps the most outstanding feat was a 1970 single-handed trans-Atlantic passage in Angantyr.

1975 *Galway Blazer* WILLIAM KING England
Started out in the Single Handed Around-the-World Race, but a roll over in a gale and a collision with a whale, eliminated competing in the race and made an interesting circumnavigation.

1976 *Reindeer* E. NEWBOLD SMITH U.S.A.
For a well planned and executed round trip trans-Atlantic voyage to Spitzbergen including visits to many remote Arctic areas.

1977 *Sisang* GOSTA ERIKSEN Sweden
For the extraordinary feat of salvaging his 41-foot ketch after being driven ashore by an unpredicted typhoon in the South China Sea.

No HUMPHREY D. E. BARTON England
Date For a lifetime of cruising, racing, twenty or more Atlantic Crossings, founder of the Ocean Cruising Club and promoter of long distance cruising.

1979 *Foreign Affair* MARY AND WILLIAM BLACK U.S.A.
For a successful westbound circumnavigation from September, 1975 to September, 1979.

1980 *Williwaw* WILLI de ROOS Belgium
For a successful counter clockwise circumnavigation of North and South America starting from Belgium in 1977.

1981 No award was made.

1982 DR. DAVID LEWIS New Zealand
“For an extraordinary, career of voyages, expeditions, research and races in small vessels.”

1983 JOHN GORE-GRIMES Ireland
For a decade of meritorious and seamanlike adventures including a circumnavigation of Ireland, Iceland, a cruise to 80 degrees North Latitude and visits to Spitzbergen, Jan Mayen Island and Greenland.

1984 ROLPH BJELKE AND DEBORAH SHAPIRO Sweden and U.S.A.
For a cruise of 33,000 miles including both Arctic ice and Antarctic ice in a forty foot ketch with essentially zero material casualties.

1985 MARVIN C. CREAMER U.S.A
For a series of off shore voyages culminating in a west to east circumnavigation via Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn without navigational instruments - compass - chronometer, sextant or electronics.

1986 *Palawan* THOMAS J. WATSON U.S.A.
For a distinguished career of sailing, racing, and cruising, culminating in 15 years of outstanding sailing expeditions, the last of which was a cruise from Corner Brook, Newfoundland to Churchill, Manitoba and return.

1987 *Totorore* GERRY CLARK New Zealand
For a three-year, eight-month ornithological research expedition in the Antarctic convergence zone involving a circumnavigation of Antarctica.

1988 *War Baby* WARREN BROWN Bermuda
For a series of outstanding cruises in War Baby, North & South: Norway, Poland, the Arctic, Panama Canal, Galapagos, Patagonia, Straits of Magellan, the Falklands, South Shetlands and Antarctic Peninsula.

1989 *Foxglove* ROY AND TEE JENNINGS U.S.A.
For 4 years of seamanlike cruising the world, circumnavigating in waters from the North Atlantic to south of Cape Horn.

1990 *Saint Patrick* PADDY BARRY Ireland
For a series of voyages in the wake of Saint Brendan the Navigator in a traditional timber boat known as a Galway Hooker to many places in the far north such as Iceland, Spitzbergen and the Norwegian Arctic.

1991 *Curlew* TIM AND PAULINE CARR England
For twenty years of cruising in the oceans and seas of the world without an engine, electrics or electronics of any kind in a 28 foot Falmouth Quay punt that was built in 1898.

1992 *Damien II* JEROME AND SALLY PONCET France/Australia
For Antarctic cruising during twelve of the last eighteen summers which resulted in the publication of a handbook to assist and advise visitors, particularly on how to protect and preserve the beautiful, but fragile, region.

1993 *Assent* WILLIAM KER England
For his courageous sailing in the many oceans of the world, much in the high latitudes. He has cruised to Greenland and Baffin Island, and it is believed he is the only man to have sailed into Gries Fjord on Ellesmere Island. On this voyage he reached 78 degrees 48 minutes north which is 850 miles from the North Pole.

1994 *Maris Stella* Jacqueline & Christiane Dardé France
For a circumnavigation from 1977 to 1983 in a 30' sloop, Ding Dinques, followed by a circumnavigation of the Pacific Basin in a 38' sloop, Maris Stella, from Panama to Japan, Alaska and Cape Horn, in a voyage commencing and terminating in France, all accomplished with competence, grace and humor, in the best tradition of amateur sailing.

1995 *Dodo's Delight* REV. R.L.M. SHEPTON England
For a circumnavigation from 1993 to 1995 in a 33' sloop, England via Antarctica (twice), Easter and Pitcairn Islands, the South Pacific, New Guinea, Australia, South Africa and returning to England, with a crew of lads from the Kingham Hill School.

1996 *Rhodora* BOB & BETH LUX U.S.A.
For a 7-year, 53,000-mile circumnavigation on a Bermuda 40 that included both coasts of South America, the Pacific Islands, Indonesia, the Red Sea, the canals of France, the Orkney Islands, Iceland, and Greenland before returning back to Quissett, Massachusetts with seamanship and love of adventure intact.

1997 *Aqua Quorum* PETER GOSS England
For the extraordinary feat of returning 160 miles upwind, in a Force 10 gale, to locate fellow competitor Ralph Dinelli during the Vendee Globe single-handed, round-the-world race. After searching for 20 hours, he hoisted Dinelli, suffering from hypothermia, on board and sailed 1800 miles to Tasmania while caring for his passenger.

1998 *Night Runner* DOUGLAS M. FRYER U.S.A.
For seamanship during 21,000 mile voyage from Seattle to Seattle by way of Cape Horn.

His 10 months were plagued with hurricanes, squalls, and gear failures. He managed to jury-rig repairs at sea, even a loose skeg and bad rudder on a 1000-mile leg from Cocos Islands to Acapulco. Other stops: Puerto Vallarta, Falklands, Trinidad, Venezuela, Panama Canal.

1999 *Amelia* KAREN THORNDIKE U.S.A.
For two-year circumnavigation in her 36-foot cutter, from San Diego, covering 30,000 miles to Hawaii, Tahiti, Cape Horn, Falkland Islands, the Argentine, Tasmania, New Zealand, and returning by way of Tahiti and Hawaii. She inspired school children with her daily reports, and encouraged them to make adventurous use of the sea.

2000 *Fiona* ERIC FORSYTH U.S.A.
For a remarkable voyage in his 42-foot sloop to Antarctica from Patchogue, Long Island, via Panama Canal, Galapagos, Chile, Port Lockroy on the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia Island, Capetown, and home by way of St. Martin and Bermuda. 21,784 miles, 10 months with crew of 1 or 2 young men. Wrote copious descriptions of his cruise, and produced special guide to the Patagonian passages.

No *Cloud Nine* ROGER B. SWANSON U.S.A.
Date For 160,000 miles of remarkable cruising in his 57-foot ketch. Prior to 1994, two circumnavigations via Antarctica. From 1994 to 2000 circled west to east from St. Thomas, V. I. to Seattle. Highlights included a Northwest Passage attempt stopped by impassable ice and extensive cruising in Europe, India, Asia and Australia. Swanson was dismasted in the South Pacific and sorely beset by ice floes in the Arctic, but through good seamanship, brought Cloud Nine through all danger.

2001 *Apostol Andrei* NIKOLAI LITAU Russia
For his circumnavigation of Europe, Africa, Australia, and Asia. He departed St. Petersburg, Nov. 1996, spent a winter laid up on the NE coast of Siberia, made it through the Bering Strait, where ice forced him to lay up again in Tiksy (Northern Siberia). In Aug. 1999, he made it through the Northeast Passage, a first in history. After 30,905 miles, he finally returned to St. Petersburg in November.

2002 *Masina* NOEL & LITARA BARROTT New Zealand
For thirty years of ocean adventure on two boats, both built by Noel himself. Their first boat, Masina, was a 38' cutter in which they circled the world, compiling 80,000 miles. Their second boat, Masina, is a 53' yawl, in which they completed a 57,000 mile circumnavigation including visits to Labrador and Iceland and an east to west rounding of Cape Horn in gale force winds. The crew included their daughter, Sina, who performed gallantly during a near capsizing when they were hit by a rogue wave off Cape Horn.

2003 *Taonui* ANTHONY GOOCH Canada
For his very well planned and executed single-handed nonstop circumnavigation from Victoria to Victoria, British Columbia. His 177 day voyage began in late 2002 in his 42 foot cutter, Taonui and was completed in 2003. Prior to that, he and his wife, Coryn, had

sailed about 115,000 miles over most of the world.

2004 *Great American II* RICHARD B. WILSON U.S.A.

For a series of three voyages in his 53' trimaran, *Great American II*, to equal or beat the record passages of famous 19th century clipper ships, including San Francisco to Boston (1993), New York to Melbourne (2001) and Hong Kong to New York (2003). His successful attempts were notable for the thoroughness of his preparations, the skilled but conservative way he sailed his fast vessel and the educational component he was able to generate for over 250,000 children who tracked his progress.