

## A slow boat home

**T**ightwads on the Loose is the charming true story of a couple, Garth Wilcox and author Wendy Hinman, whose big dream to circumnavigate the Pacific Ocean was not deflated by a small budget. Hinman's self-effacing style and eye for the hilarious make the seven-year, 34,000-mile tale a pleasure to read.

They set sail from Seattle, Washington, in a Tom Wylie designed, wooden 31-foot cutter, skipping down to Mexico, and then making the long passage to the Marquesas, then island hopping down to New Zealand before heading northwest, eventually landing in Japan. Their destinations read like the U.S. Marines' World War II march across the Pacific.

At each island, Wilcox and Hinman visit the relics of America's military past, but not all are in the past. On Kwajalein atoll, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, they buoyed their bank account with jobs as civilian contractors at a U.S. Army base, shivering in offices cooled to 40 degrees to suppress mold problems, and, following regulations, taking three practical and two written sailing tests to sail their own boat that they had already navigated 17,000 miles to get to the atoll. They returned home after seven years on the loose, settled into life on land, and started building another boat. --Rich Evans

