

PASSAGE NOTES

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WHETHER IT'S IN THE PLANS OR MERELY A PIPE DREAM, WHAT OFF-THE-BEATEN-TRACK PLACE WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO CRUISE?

Roque Island, Maine (above). It has a mile-and-a-half-long white-sand crescent beach surrounded by an archipelago of islands. More often than not you're the only boat there, and you can anchor 100 feet off the beach. T.M.

The Ragged Islands in the Bahamas. Because they are off the beaten path! B.R.

A great trip would be from Perth, Western Australia, along the

northern route to Tonga, then from Tonga through the Panama Canal into the Caribbean and back. G.F.

Isla de Chiloé and environs in Chile are well off any path! J.G.

The Society Islands. Simply because they are there. B.K.

I choose the Northwest Passage. It is off the beaten path and still unspoiled. S.D.



Hinman to Speak in Seattle

When the time came for me to bare my cruising plans, Wendy Hinman offered genuine enthusiasm, practical, noteworthy advice and some hilarious tales — she's an accomplished storyteller. *Tightwads on the Loose: A Seven Year Pacific Odyssey*, her memoir, will captivate you while shattering any excuses you invent for delaying setting out.

"There comes a moment in life when we must not only dream, but follow it wherever it might lead," Hinman says. She still adores her husband after spending seven years circumnavigating 34,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean with him aboard

A circumnavigation aboard a 31-foot boat gave Wendy Hinman lots to discuss.

Veella, their Tom Wylie-designed 31-foot cutter without refrigeration, generator, water heater or radar. She doesn't sugarcoat the challenge of surviving not only the journey, but also the marriage.

Who better then to speak on the topics "Cruising Simply on Budget" and "Comfort Afloat in the Heat of the Tropics" at the Seattle Boat Show, Jan. 23–Feb. 1, 2015? Log on to the Seattle Boat Show website for details (seattleboatshow.com).

Dana Greyson

Drive-by Surfing

In the shadow of spectacular Otemanu peak on Bora Bora, in French Polynesia's Society Islands, I piloted *Namani*, our 35-foot Dufour sloop, in slow circles. Around and around, around and around the mooring field. Eventually, a catamaran joined us in long, lazy loops off Mai Tai Yacht Club. It was an aquatic merry-go-round, with cruising yachts instead of horses. We weren't in a rush, or competing for a free mooring. Appearances to the contrary, we were underway to a quiet anchorage on the southwest side of the lagoon, 8 miles away. So what were we doing, spinning in circles off the town?

Why, surfing the Net, of course.

We call it "drive-by surfing" — drifting through Wi-Fi zones to access email and Internet before hastening away to greener pastures (er, bluer anchorages). With his laptop, my husband, Markus Schweitzer, uploaded pictures to our blog while simultaneously downloading online bank statements, checking email and grabbing that new Kindle title out of the ether.

As liveaboard cruisers, we have all the time in the world, but we hate to waste a day in civilization if we can avoid it. Instead, we do quick drive-by surf sessions where reception is strongest, then gleefully disappear into the nearest communications black hole for another few weeks. Hey, if you're gonna escape the rat race, you might as well do it efficiently!

Nadine Slavinski



The crew of the historic vessel *Vega* captured this dramatic shot of the volcanic island of Kumba in Indonesia's Banda Islands.

