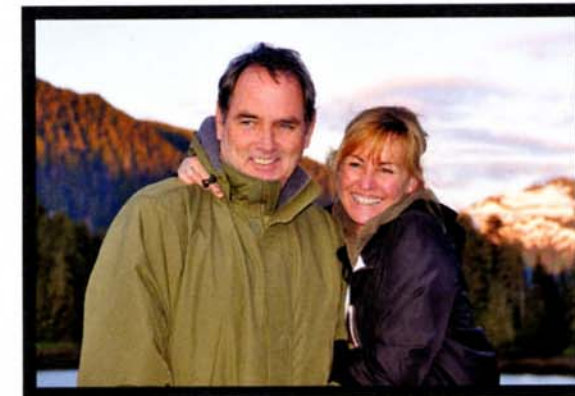




THE WANDERING WALSHEs

BY CAPT. PATRICK SCIACCA :::

WHAT DOES A COUPLE DO AFTER 27 YEARS WORKING AT SEA? GO CRUISING, NATURALLY.



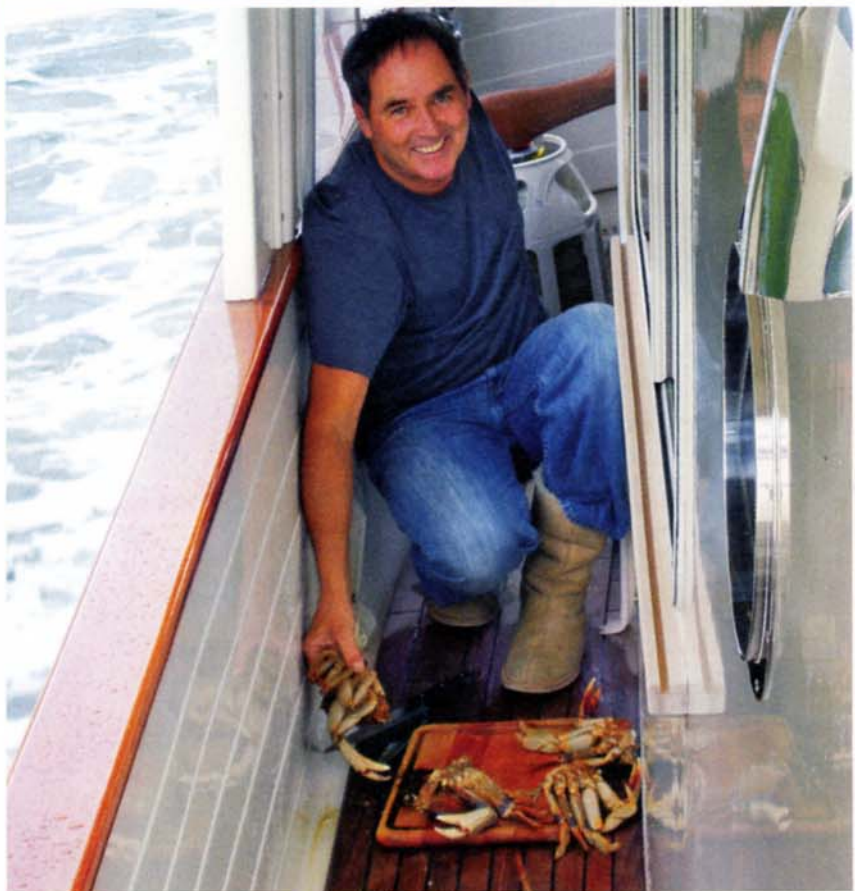
The ocean has an irresistible allure. Have you ever headed down to the beach right after a storm has passed through? You'll see pods of people out on the sand just staring out into the vastness of the sea, watching and wondering.

While many people are content taking in the ocean from the relative safety of a beach, boaters—particularly long-range cruiser types—prefer to foster a more intimate relationship with the sea. They like to spend days, weeks, months, or in the case of the couple you're about to meet, years exploring and making passages around our big blue marble.

Above: Philip and Beverley Walsh turned to a full-time cruising life after 27 years of a working life at sea. The couple's 48-foot Kadey-Krogen **Opposite!** has already taken this couple to some far-flung waypoints.



This page, clockwise from top: The Walshes have been cruising almost three years nonstop aboard their vessel *Zuben'Ubi*; from Florida around and up to the wild north of Alaska. Some locals discuss the make and model of this traveling trawler. Who needs an ice maker? The Walshes consider if this cube will fit into the happy-hour goblet. **Opposite page, clockwise from top:** One of the benefits of full-time cruising is waking up to coffee on the aft deck. Another one is the ability to catch yourself a tasty dinner.



What makes the story of Philip and Beverley Walsh so fascinating is that they began their long-distance cruising journey after having already spent 27 years at sea. Obviously they don't adhere to the phrase: "You can have too much of a good thing."

In the 1980s, the Walshes started their professional career working on Caribbean sailing charters. Philip says that the couple's original plan was to do the charter thing for a couple of years to get it out of their system. But soon after the duo started at sea, the salt got into their veins, and it refused to leave. The Walshes oceangoing career path was set. "We got hooked on life at sea," explains Philip.

And they have the resumé to back up that statement. During an 11-year tenure on a motorsailer, the wandering Walshes made three circumnavigations and visited what Philip calls "extremely remote areas." After rounding the globe a few times, the couple followed up with some transatlantic hops on both sailboats and powerboats before taking up with an owner of a large motoryacht for ten years. That yacht took the Walshes north to Iceland, Greenland, and the Arctic.

You would think that with a varied and been-there-done-that career like this one, these full-time seafarers would have opted for a landlubber's life, at least for a while. Not the Walshes; they retired from their professional at-sea life to pursue cruising on their own

terms. "We always said that we would do it on our own schedule and as slowly as we wanted when we had the chance," Philip says.

Once they had decided to stay on the water, the couple needed to choose the right vessel for the job. At first, the Walshes say they thought about purchasing a "fast" boat. The idea was that a boat with a high cruising speed could visit many different locales in a single season. Philip comments, however, that after chartering a motoryacht to get a taste of the powerboat cruising life, they noticed that they were always slowing down to 7 or 8 knots to smell the roses, so to speak. So the Walshes decided to go with a full-displacement trawler and began investigating options. In the





end, they chose a Kadey-Krogen 48 Widebody and named her *Zuben'Ubi*, after a star that resides in the constellation Libra.

Philip explains, "We wanted a well-laid-out boat that we could live on comfortably, not only by ourselves but also with occasional guests. With our two-stateroom Widebody, we've found it, and it has the same living space as some 55-foot trawlers." While traveling at sea, the Walshes use the 48's amidships cabin as their master stateroom; once back in port they switch to the forward cabin and that amidships cabin reverts to an office. When guests are onboard, they are accommodated in the saloon aft where the port-side settee pulls out into a berth, says Philip.

In addition to the vessel's layout, the Walshes cited her sturdy construction as a deciding factor to purchase the Kadey-Krogen. They say their vessel's solid fiberglass bottom provides strength where it's needed, while cored GRP panels both reduce weight and add stiffness. Philip also says that he likes the fact that his single-diesel boat features an integrated rubrail, not one that is a bolt-on "afterthought."

And that rubrail has seen a lot of water pass under it, because the Walshes are always on the move. When they are a crew of two (which is most of the time), the couple spends about three days at sea before finding a port, which Philip notes is about the top end of their at-sea comfort level. For passages of more than three days, they take along an extra crewmember or two.

That said, these highly experienced seafarers (the duo has more than 100,000 nautical miles under their keel) recently traveled from Jamaica to Panama while working their way up from Florida to Alaska. "We did it easily on our own," says Philip. Moreover, they say that this extended run was one of their more memorable ones



because of the sea conditions: consistent 20-knot Caribbean tradewinds on the beam and long ten-foot swells. "The boat behaved like she was on rails," Philip says happily.

Having traveled just about every inch of water possible on the planet, what does a pair of cruising diehards like the Walshes do next? Well, their original plan was to travel nonstop for two years, which has already stretched to three. They say it looks like they might just keep on going and note that they've done a lot of their recent voyaging in southeast Alaska. "This is a destination that deserves several more years," Philip tells me, adding that they are looking forward to checking out Prince William Sound, Kodiak, and the Aleutians.

So if you happen to be up that way and are admiring the sea from the beach, you may notice a 48-foot Kadey-Krogen Widebody trawler cruising along the horizon. If you do, throw a wave as it just may be the wandering Walshes off on their next adventure. **PMY**

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Opposite (both photos): One of the great pleasures of cruising is discovering that out-of-way gunkhole or cove. **Top:** A rising moon can be just as spectacular as a setting sun. **Right:** Beachside picnics provide a reason for the Walshes to come ashore.