



The Circumnavigation of the “Anja K” Catalina 42 Sailed by: The Richards Family

The Richards' family (Don, Anja, Keith,13 and Katherine,11) left Adelaide, South Australia, in June 1998 on board their Catalina 42 Mk II #510. They traveled up the East Coast of Australia to Timor and via the Indonesian Archipelago. After visiting Singapore, Phuket, the islands and hongs of Phang Nga Bay, they crossed to Sri Lanka enjoying some of the best sailing of the voyage averaging over 7 knots for the entire trip. The Red Sea lived up to its reputation for some yachts but the Richards' were lucky and had a relatively smooth passage. In Israel, a short stop-over turned into months, leaving before they would have to start paying school fees for Katherine's repeated attendance the local school after "sleep-overs" with local kids. Cyprus then beckoned, along with the delights of the southern coast of Turkey. Un-forecast bad weather was experienced on a run back to Cyprus, with just Don and Katherine on board at the time. Don described a terrifying event, but ended with just the loss of the mainsail and a few items, he could now appreciate the strength of the yacht. All the wonders of the Med followed - the Greek Isles, Corinthian Canal, Corfu, Italy, Corsica, the Balearics and Spain before resting up in Gibraltar. The crossing to the Canaries again proved eventful when caught in another storm which took the life of an Italian single hander, but their respect for the Catalina 42's ability to handle the bad weather made the ordeal considerably less traumatic. Don and Katherine completed their circumnavigation in 4.5 years. The Anja K returned to Adelaide on December 18, 2002, where she is still owned by the family.



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