

1000 DAYS AT SEA

THE MARS OCEAN ODYSSEY



BREAKING NEWS, New York Harbor, Hoboken, New Jersey -- Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 3:00pm is the departure time of the longest non-stop sea voyage in history. Preparations are complete for Reid Stowe and Soanya Ahmad to depart the Terra Firma and not step foot on any land for 1000 days. Departure will be from the pier at 14th Street and Frank Sinatra Drive, Hoboken, NJ. They will not refuel, not re-supply, and not pull into any harbor during the entire voyage.

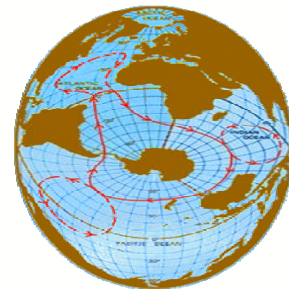


When they cast off they will follow global trade winds from New York eastward toward Europe, then to the southern coast of Africa, and begin a route to scribe a huge heart shape graphic on the ocean between Africa and South America. They will then continue around Africa, through the Indian Ocean, past Australia, around the end of South America's Cape Horn to circumnavigate

the globe in the southern hemisphere 4 times. Their return to New York Harbor will be the first time they will have seen land in almost three years.

"The object of the voyage is to leave the land and all support, sail for 1,000 days, non-stop at sea without receiving help, to live at sea, to be healthy, to send back good messages and have the whole world follow the voyage and understand the importance of it and then we'll be back sailing back into New York City after 1,000 Days." - Capt. Reid Stowe

The voyage will follow the traditional trade routes of the square riggers in the Southern Hemisphere. "Here the prevailing winds and currents afford opportunities for downwind sailing far from sight of land," says Reid.



Far from land and without the inherent dangers of coastal pirates and commercial shipping lanes, the main elements to deal with are Nature and crew health. "All the oceans; Southern

Ocean around Antarctica, the South Pacific, and the Indian Ocean; have their own special feel and weather patterns. Each day can be very much like the one before-then be instantaneously transformed by a change in the weather or by any other unpredictable occurrence. At any moment an encounter with whales, dolphins, sea turtles, or sharks can transform the ordinary into the magical. Such are the ways of the sea." Video's on the web site share these kinds of experiences from the past and will feature episodes during this voyage.

Reid Stowe and his extraordinary spirit of adventure, as reflected in the Ocean Odyssey, have attracted quality media coverage in recent years. American publications, including NY Times, NY Magazine, Outside, French News NYC, Cruising World, Motor Boating & Sailing, Ocean Navigator, Boat International, NY Sunday Magazine, Off Shore, Conde Nast Traveler, Sea Frontiers Magazine, Sail, Ad Astra National Space Magazine, and Blue Magazine, as well as the international periodicals Nautical Scene, Yacht, Journal du Dimanche, and Sud Ouest have carried articles on what will in all likelihood be a historic voyage-with global participation via floating technological systems linked to interactive website.



A feature written about the Explorers Club of New York by Conde Nast Traveler describes Reid as being the "genuine article, with an old-fashioned

spirit of adventure" and "a man with that rare combination of unbridled passion and impetuosity." Nicholas Sullivan, president of the Explorer's Club, adds that "By virtue of his Voyage of 1000 Days, Reid will be one of the greatest explorers ever."



Born into a family of longtime boat builders and inspired by his father's Air Force career, Reid has been challenging the seas with lengthy voyages since age 19, when he first sailed from Hawaii to New Zealand in 1971. It was during this time that he met and was influenced by France's Bernard Moitessier, the first man to sail nonstop around the world. He mother's influences inspired appreciation for writing, the arts, and spirituality that are now a part of everyday life..

Returning from New Zealand, Reid built a 1400-pound catamaran and ventured for three years across the Atlantic Ocean and back, then up the Amazon River; all without benefit of radio, electronics, or motor. In 1976, brimming with knowledge and confidence, Reid began preparing for a challenging six-month voyage to the Antarctic. With the help of family and friends, he designed and built, in a year and a half, what he terms "the ultimate long distance, heavy weather sailboat," a 70-foot and 60-ton gaff-rigged schooner that he named Anne, in honor of his mother. For six months in 1986, Reid and a crew sailed her to Antarctica, "where few boats venture due to the extremely dangerous conditions."

The Schooner Anne was designed by Reid Stowe. She is a low-maintenance vessel designed to be repaired at sea. Her hull is made of steel and fiber glass, with interior cabins finished in Caribbean hardwood that was salvaged after hurricane David.

Her water containers have a 7 ton capacity and can be refilled with rain water by means of a catchment awning or with sea water filtered by means of a 12 volt reverse osmosis water maker. Anne carries a 140 horse power diesel engine fueled by a 250 gallon long distance reservoir. Electricity for communication equipment is provided by solar, and water movement generators.



Her deck structures were conceived to maintain a low center of gravity so as to withstand the repeated assaults of heavy weather.

The sails of the schooner are gaff-rigged with an upper and lower boom for each of the major sails. The masts are of thick solid wood and the ropes holding the sails are of dacron, a material which has proven itself over long usage. The rigging was designed for its reliability using age old tried and true sailing techniques.

Since 1978 Captain Stowe has sailed Anne on hundreds of sea voyages including a 200 day expedition to Antarctica. At the age of 20 he sailed alone for a year as a rite of passage.

"I am complete within myself. It's about controlling your mind and your heart"
--Reid Stowe

In 2001 Captain Stowe and Anne with a small novice crew weathered the "perfect storm" during a winter hurricane in the North Atlantic. Anne was thrown over but automatically righted herself. Anne's responded to her design which places its weigh in ballast 9 ft. below water. Able to sail Anne single handedly if necessary with mental and physical discipline Captain Reid Stowe and Anne are the perfect team to accomplish what seems

beyond human endurance. Amazingly, with such a close one-to-one relationship with Anne, constantly aware of details in movements and sounds, Stowe has prevented being injured during any voyage.

Life on Board

Food supplies on board amount to tons of non-perishable provisions ranging from basics to various sponsor contributions of interesting gourmet treats. Self grown sprouts are a major daily staple. Fish will be caught and consumed or salt preserved for future use. The galley features sink, gas stove, and greenhouse garden. A pilothouse wood and coal stove heats the living areas. Fresh water from tanks deep in the vessel provide sufficiently enough for consumption and cleaning. With ship maintenance, navigation, writing, music, photography, and transmitting information to share with the world, there will be much to occupy Soanya and Reid on a daily basis.



Mission Statement

To increase mankind's fundamental understanding of their unique capabilities and dependence of ones human existence on the world around them.

Goals

1. To obtain valuable information on the physical and mental stress which must be overcome during such an extended voyage. The solitude that will be a major part of this journey will give insight into man's tolerance during an extended isolation from land.

2. To evaluate the effectiveness of various psychological support techniques when applied under actual field conditions and examine ways to resolve interpersonal conflicts.

3. Critical information will be developed not just for survival but for sustainable human existence. This would include food, clothing, boating equipment, communication and a host of other items that while seeming insignificant during normal life on land, may assume critical importance under the stress experienced by isolation.

4. We can increase our knowledge of the southern oceans through daily recordings of water, air temperatures, wind speeds, water and atmospheric pollution and ozone depletion. Through these records we will gain insight into our ultimate dependence on our environment.

5. Education components are planned to instruct those who follow the voyage. Subjects to be studied are: marine and atmospheric sciences, satellite communication, celestial navigation, computer technology, sail boat repair and maintenance, nutrition, gardening, health, physical education, geography, oceanography, math, world history, languages, psychology as well as a host of other topics.

6. To inspire others to voyage beyond human expectations.

7. To promote a global message of hope, peace, perseverance, achievement and excellence.

The Mars Ocean Odyssey

Captain Stowe has collaborated with and maintains a close relationship with behavioral scientists associated with NASA and the Smithsonian. This is due to their interest in common aspects of isolation during the 1000 day ocean voyage that are very similar to the time frame and challenges expected for the coming manned Mars expedition.

The continuing public interest

Captain Reid Stowe has generated international media interest. To date he has received press coverage in the United States, Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Holland, Japan, China, Brazil and Trinidad. He was featured in Sail Magazine and France's top sports magazine L'Equipt in major articles.

The 1,000 Day Voyage has and will continue to be of interest to the international, scientific, boating, environmental, food, clothing, equipment and sports media.

It's been said this is truly..

“The Ultimate Reality Show.”

Visit www.1000days.net where you can follow Captain Stowe and Soanya Ahmad on their adventure of a 1000 days. There you will have the opportunity to send, via satellite, a message to the Schooner Anne. A live real-time tracking map is also available. You also may subscribe to a monthly personalized dispatch printed on a calendar page and mailed to your home or office.

Ship to shore news media interviews and immediate photo transmission can be arranged through the on-shore crew. This story is available in digital text/graphic format. High res photos are available for publication.

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