

CURRENTS

GLENN WAKEFIELD MAKES SECOND SOLO ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE WORLD AGAINST THE WIND

ON SEPTEMBER 2, GLENN Wakefield unfastened the lines of his Comanche 42 Sparkman and Stephens-designed cutter, *West Wind II*, and set off for his second attempt to circumnavigate the world alone and without stopping. His 50,000 km voyage is west-about, against the prevailing winds, and when completed, will be the first such globe-circling sail from North America.

With wet eyes, he hugged his wife, MaryLou, waved farewell to the many friends lining the dock at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club and, accompanied

removed the TV antenna and microwave. He catches rainwater to fill his tanks and has eschewed a watermaker. No battery-draining refrigeration. No heater. To ensure battery power, a wind generator and solar collectors replaced the sealed engine alternator.

He can close his companionway with the small deck hatch he has installed—it will forestall water entering the saloon when the boat gets pooped or the weather turns rough.

Wakefield, who grew up on the water in Victoria, is a lifelong sailor. He and his family have sailed offshore and have competed in many a race. Six years ago, he made his first attempt to complete the same route he is now following. Storms caused him to abandon his boat near Cape Horn after knockdowns seriously damaged his rig and concussed him. He was rescued by the Argentinian Navy. But he never abandoned his dream to complete this challenge.

As of this writing, he has crossed the equator. "He has had the usual challenges with gear," MaryLou Wakefield said. "Lots of fluky winds make him reef up and down, mostly at night. That's sometimes hard as he likes to go as fast as possible. His brain is always in 'race mode.' Definitely not a casual sailor."

Wind West II keeps in touch by satellite telephone, although open ocean coverage is extremely sketchy. Wakefield speaks daily with a group of HAM operators around the world, who transmit messages to the many people who are following his progress. MaryLou maintains a blog 'Going Solo' about Glenn's experience at sea: <http://glennwakefieldaroundtheworld.com>.

MaryLou has received emails from many people. "It's quite amazing," she said. "Glenn's voyage has elicited some unusual responses. One man wrote that he's been inspired to run a marathon. Another said he's committed to going on a challenging sailing trip. So Glenn is not only following his own dream, he's rousing others to do the same."

—Marianne Scott

The Sparkman and Stephens-designed *West Wind II* sails from Victoria at the start of its west-about circumnavigation.



by a flock of other boats, slowly sailed to Trial Island, the official start-line of his circumnavigation.

Wakefield, 63, intends to sail south and southwest toward New Zealand past Stewart Island's South Cape, then round the Cape of Tasmania and Australia's Cape Leeuwin to enter the Indian Ocean. He'll pass by Africa's Cape of Good Hope and then continue through the South Atlantic to the notorious Cape Horn. He plans to continue to 80° west, when he'll head north to reach his last cape—Cape Flattery—and hence home.

He expects his voyage to last a year and has enough food aboard for 14 months. His sailboat, built in 1969 by Chris-Craft, has been extensively refurbished, although he has tried to keep it as simple as possible. He

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