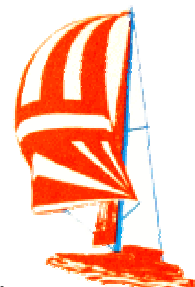


SY Freydis - Chronology of our Journeys 1990 – 2006

Motivation factor – Crew



Wild Pacific - this book title was created by Peter Sartorius, a managing editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, who sailed with us to Papua New Guinea as part of the GEO teams.

It encompasses the experiences of the last chapter of our circling the Antarctic – from 1996 to 1998.

Three books have already appeared about the previous stages (see index). So this book is the fourth, if you will, final volume of a tetralogy. To facilitate the order of the described experiences, I would like to give a chronological overview of the entire operation „Around the Antarctic“ with a short commentary:

- 12.05.1990:** Start in Leer (northern Germany) to the first around-the-world sail.
- 1990:** Journey via the Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands and Brazil, to Tierra del Fuego and to Cape Horn. Fire on board in Mar del Plata, cruises in Tierra del Fuego. New Years at Cape Horn. (1990:9998 nautical miles)
- 1991:** On May 24th, stranding in crater lake of Deception Island, off the Antarctic Peninsula (63°S, 60°W), ten month winter, just the two of us. We first visited this island, which belongs to the south Shetland group, in January 1982 as part of our trip around South America 1981/82. Provisional repair and return to South America end of December. (1991:3782 nautical miles).
- 1992:** Repairs over several months with native Indians of Tierra del Fuego in Puerto Williams in Beagle Canal. End of winter, test trip to Staten Island, Argentina and Cape Horn. (1992:1165 nautical miles)
- 1993-1998:** Six-year circling of Antarctica and stops to most peripheral islands. In total we made five trips to the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific south polar sea. As soon as the southern winter approached with pack ice, ship-freezing, storms and darkness, we headed out to more moderate latitudes and subtropic regions, where we overhauled the FREYDIS and sailed to mostly islands specified as nature reserves.
- 1993:** Atlantic from Cape Horn, South America via the Falklands, South Georgia, south Sandwich Islands and Tristan da Cunha to Capetown, South Africa. In southern winter detour to the Comoro Islands and Madagascar. (1993:10,110 nautical miles)
- 1994:** From Richardsbay via the islands of Prince Edward, Crozet, Kerguelen, Heard, St. Paul to Fremantle. In southern winter, Great Australian Bight, Bass Strait, Tasmania and Tasman Sea to Nelson, New Zealand. (1994:10,760 nautical miles.)

- 1995:** Round New Zealand: North Island, South Island, and Stewart Island. Highlights include the three visits to the volcanic White Island, New Zealand's most active volcano. Here we celebrate our silver wedding anniversary. (1995: 3807 nautical miles).
- 1996:** Journey to the Ross Sea and Scott Island. On both legs of trip we are the first yacht to visit all the subantarctic islands of New Zealand and Australia: Snares, Auckland, Macquarie, Campbell, Antipodes, Bounty and Chatham. (1996:8685 nautical miles).
- 1996/1997:** Pacific from New Zealand via Kermadec, Beveridge, Cooks, Society Islands, Tuamotus, Gambiers, Pitcairn, Easter Island, Sala y Gómez, Phantom Island, Podesta, Juan Fernandez to Valdivia, Chile. Following through the Patagonian canals and Tierra del Fuego to Cape Horn. (1997: 7376 nautical miles)
- 1998:** The last – and sixth since 1982 – Antarctic expedition takes us back to the Antarctic Peninsula and finally to Deception Island, to the crater lake where we spent a winter six years before. (1998:9481 nautical miles)

Distance: covered in round Antarctica from Deception to Deception: 44, 077 nautical miles.

Motivation factor

Why are we always attracted to extreme regions and not to the tropics and subtropics? Truthfully, the South Pacific, where we spent several years, does tempt us with relaxation, gaiety, easy living, with warmth, sun, palm beaches, shimmering lagoons and friendly people. But our most heartfelt region is not the South Pacific. It is still Antarctica and the sub-antarctic and antarctic islands. It repeatedly attracts us with a passion for which we are willing to suffer. Sailing in upper latitudes, compared to the „barefoot route“, also means heavy predicaments, hardships and toil, but it fulfills us with an intense feeling for life and deep satisfaction.

No doubt, our attitude toward sailing has changed with time. While in the beginning we were fed by athletic ambition and a mix of curiosity and thirst for adventure, today it is primarily the wonderful nature experiences, that spur us on. To our own surprise, it was possible to reach even the most remote corners of the world with our small boat. Indeed many places may not have been reached any other way or at least been very difficult.

Crew

When sailing the long trade wind routes of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, we usually prefer to sail alone together. Togetherness was also important during our ten month wintering on the Island of Deception. Up to six crew members accompanied us on two to ten-week trips in the south polar sea. Toward the end of both „round the world“ trips it came close to 300 crew members during the 60 trips, many of them participated several times.

For every five guests on one trip there was an average of three „repeat-offenders“

By the way, the most extreme and longest crew sailing trip in 1994 led to the south polar islands of the Indian Ocean from South Africa to Australia over a distance of 6662 nautical miles. There were eight of us on this part and it took 73 days - and we parted as friends.

Why do we sail with a crew? We have five good reasons:

1. Costly trips which resemble expeditions become financially more feasible.
2. An experienced crew lessens the safety risk for ship and members substantially, especially in the stormy westerlies and allows for more high sport sailing
3. Only a good crew makes it even possible to turn our goal of reaching challenging islands into reality.
4. Sailing with a crew may be a major limitation of our personal freedoms, but having company aboard and sharing experiences is also enriching and worthwhile.
5. As owners and skippers, we automatically assume a great deal of responsibility for our crew. Leading the ship means steering and giving directions to the crew and making decisions. It may have been a big load for some, but for us it is even after thirty years almost always pleasure.

And the journey is still not over yet

To our own surprise, the end of our first round the world trip at Cape Horn was the start of a second journey: this time the classic trade wind route from east to west. What spurred us on was an invitation from GEO Magazine to a four-month expedition in Melanesia with several GEO-Teams aboard the FREYDIS.

The second global trip I would like to list as a chronological table – several GEO publications and a GEO-book have appeared about the travelled section in Melanesia.

Chronological table:

July 1998 to July 2002

The second circling voyage from east to west on the classic route

July 1998 to July 1999

First leg of journey to starting point Noumea/New Caledonia from Cape Horn via Tierra del Fuego and the Patagonian canals in strong winter to Robinson Crusoe, San Felix and Ambrosio, Marquesas, Tuamotus, Society Islands, Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga , Fiji to Noumea.

1999 Four month GEO expedition with three teams through Melanesia

Team 1 Vanuatu

Team 2 Solomon Islands

Team 3 Papua New Guinea

At the end of the expedition we brought the FREYDIS to Townsville, Australia.
(1999: 8672 nautical miles)

2000: Australia: total overhauling of FREYDIS in a shipyard in Townsville, Queensland. Great Barrier reef, Torres-Strait, Arafura-Sea, Darwin
(2000:1719 nautical miles).

2001: Indian Ocean from Darwin via Kimberly Coast, Broome, Bali, Christmas Island, Cocos Keeling, Rodrigues, Cargados Carachos Shoals, Mauritius, Reunion, southeast Madagascar to Durban South Africa and from there along the coast to Capetown. (2001: 7937 nautical miles)

2002: Part 1: Atlantic Ocean from east to west: From Capetown, South Africa to Walvis Bay, Namibia (Heide's 60th birthday), St. Helena, Ascension, Jao Pessoa, Brazil.

Part 2: Atlantic Ocean from west to east: From Brazil to Fernando de Noronha, then over the equator – equatorial baptism and Erichs 60th birthday coincided – Cape Verdes, Azores, Scilly Islands, Ile d'Quessant near Brest, English Channel, St. Malo, Oostende, Borkum to Leer (2002: 10 771 nautical miles)

After 12 years and 94,000 nautical miles, with many highs and lows, on July 20th, 2002 we are back in Leer, Germany.

Let us close with Psalm 90,10: „.....“ (sorry, we miss an english bible, so we cannot translate and we say it in german in the words of Martin Luther:

“...und wenn's köstlich gewesen ist, so ist's Mühe und Arbeit gewesen.”

Preparation and Beginning of our seventh journey round the world:

2003: Thorough overhaul of FREYDIS after 25 Years and more than 200.000 nm, the equivalent of ten perimeter of the globe.

2004: Start in August: Leer – Canal – Lisboa – Madeira – Canary Islands – SAL/Cap Verde

2005: Jan. – May : Cap Verde – Grenada – Isla Margarita – Curacao –St. Blas – Panama – Costa Rica – Acapulco/Mexiko – La Paz/Californ. Peninsula

2006: Jan. – March : La Paz/Baja California – Hilo/Big Island – Kauai/Hawaii, May – August: Kauai – Midway-Atoll – Aleutians – Alaska-Peninsula – Prince William Sound

2007: planed: **Alaska/Bering Sea**
