

Newsroundup



Photo: Tim Wright

The World Really is their Oyster

Four years and 30,000 miles after setting out, the Oyster 485 *WhiteWings*, owned by Klaus and Marlies Schuback, has completed her circumnavigation.

Klaus and Marlies set out with their brand new *WhiteWings* in summer 2003 from the Baltic Sea and sailed her back to Ipswich, then along the South Coast of England, crossing the Bay of Biscay and down to the Algarve where they stayed for the winter. In 2004 they cruised the Mediterranean from West to East and East to West before crossing the Atlantic with the 2004 ARC. In 2005 they cruised the Caribbean Sea from St. Lucia northwards to Puerto Rico and then south to Trinidad, visiting numerous islands on the way. During the hurricane season they stayed in Venezuela, Bonaire and Curacao.

Early in 2006 they joined the Blue Water Rally in Panama and continued the circumnavigation in company with around 25 yachts. Highlights for 2006 were visiting French Polynesia, Tonga, Fiji, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. They sailed about 11,000 miles in only 12 months, which with hindsight they felt was a little too much.

In early 2007 they left Thailand and sailed to the Maldives with a short stop over in Sri Lanka. In the Maldives they prepared to cross the Arabian Sea heading for Djibouti and on further through the Red Sea to Egypt. They crossed the Arabian Sea without seeing any pirates, but in the Red Sea they had a disaster. In the early morning of March 4th 2007, sailing in strong winds and heavy seas, the yacht was dismantled. It was extremely hard work to cut the remaining rig and throw everything overboard before they were able to motor to the next harbour for a rest. A few days later they motored to Hurgada and then further on through the Suez Canal to Marmaris in Turkey where, with the help of Oyster After Sales, *White Wings* was restored, enabling Klaus and Marlies to complete their around the world voyage.

Speaking of their voyage Klaus said *"Our circumnavigation has given us plenty of unforgettable memories. We had a number of little adventures and one big disaster that all turned into very good learning experiences. We learned a lot about ourselves, our yacht, the nature and the culture of about 40 countries that we visited. It was an exciting cruise. We always felt safe on our yacht, even when we lost the mast in the Red Sea, which was a special experience on it's own. We are proud and glad to own an Oyster yacht and we would not have done a circumnavigation on any other yacht."*