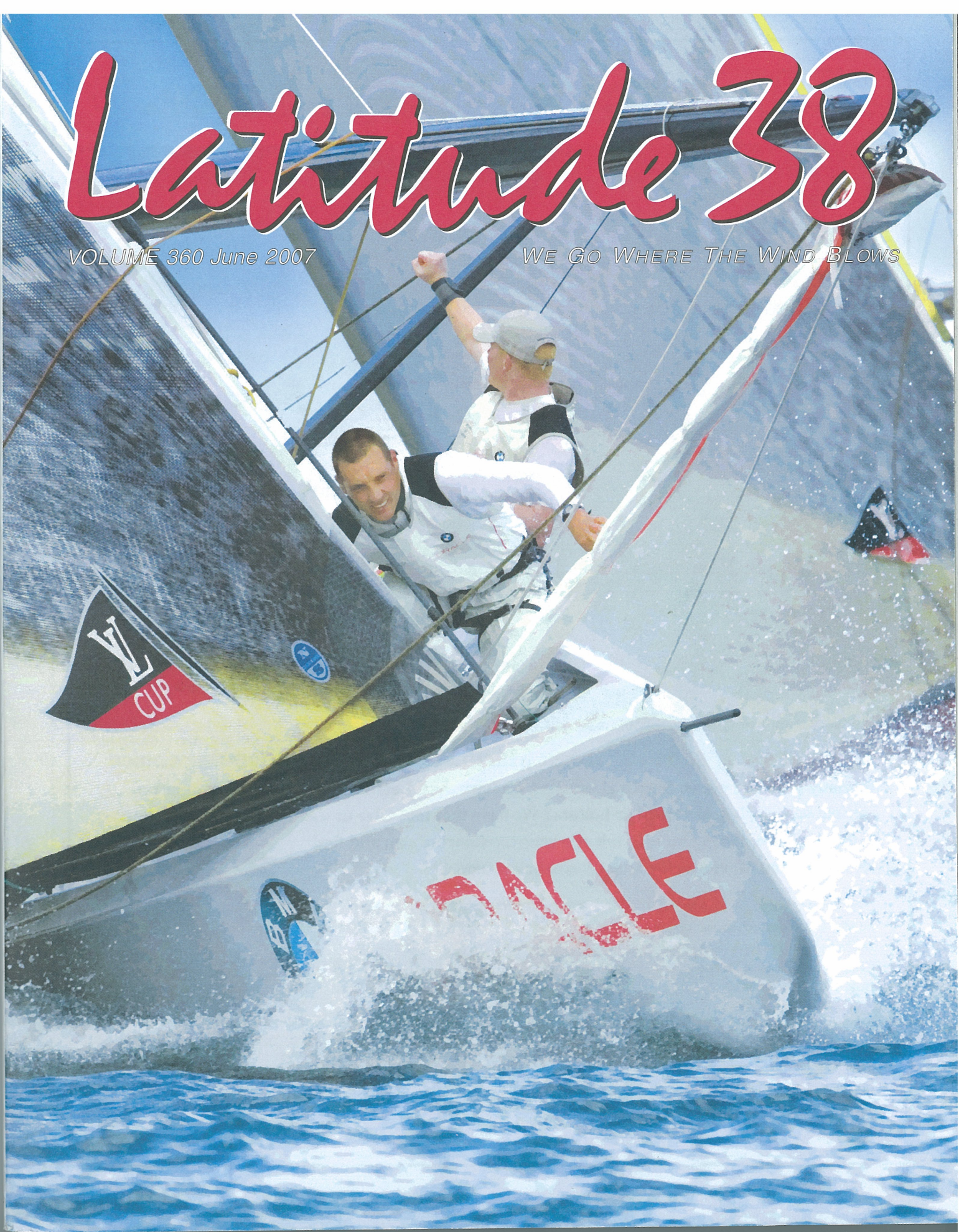


Latitude 38

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WE GO WHERE THE WIND BLOWS



THE COST OF 'BUMFUZZLING'

Most sailors who decide to circumnavigate spend at least a decade working up to making that *ultimate* cruise. But, as with other ambitious endeavors, there are also some who buck the norm and take the fast track toward high adventure.

Meet Ali and Pat Schulte, a wide-eyed pair of native Minnesotans from a place called Lake Elmo who, at age 28, had dreams of seeing the world. One night in 2002, while choking down pizza and beer in a Chicago pie parlor, they decided to buy themselves a sailboat and explore the planet. The fact that neither of them had ever set foot on a sailboat was of little or no concern.

The following spring they took an eight-hour introductory sailing course on Lake Michigan aboard a J/24, during which they learned the basics — more or less. From what we can tell, it was more a case of youthful optimism than cocksure naiveté which led them to think they could figure the rest out along the way. Two months later they flew to Fort Lauderdale to look at catamarans and ended up sealing a deal on an eight-month-old Wildcat 35 before sundown on their first day of shopping. "We liked the layout and the price, and bought it," recalls Pat, matter-of-factly. "We didn't know anything about anything as far as boat designs and builders go. Still don't, really." They flew home the next day and began selling everything they owned on eBay. "People even buy *used shoes*

on eBay!" they say.

In answer to the burning question of where they got the money to finance the purchase and the trip, apparently Pat made a killing during a four-year stint as a commodities trader in the pits of the Chicago Board of Trade while Ali worked as an administrative assistant at a financial firm. They started dating during their junior year of high school, by the way, and have been an inseparable duo ever since.

Due to their openly acknowledged lack of experience and self-deprecating nature, it's not surprising that they would pick a name for their new chariot like 'Bumfuzzle' — a word that implies utter confusion, as in "Sheesh! I was completely bumfuzzled by that chart plotter installation!" The name has proven to be a winner for a number of reasons. It simultaneously conveys Pat and Ali's let's-not-get-too-serious approach toward bluewater sailing, while



Whether or not you approve of their cruising style, you've got to give Ali and Pat credit for chasing their dreams without hesitation. Right: 'Bumfuzzle' lies at Cook's Bay, Moorea.

implicitly poking fun at their abilities, or lack thereof. And, of course, like other \$20 words found in the small print of a Thesaurus, such as kerfuffle, flummox, dumbfound and discombobulate, it's just a fun word to vocalize: "Bumfuzzle, Bumfuzzle, Bumfuzzle. This is Vagabond. Come in please"

After installing upgrades and getting used to the boat's systems during a short stint in Southern Florida, they ventured cautiously across the Gulf Stream,



ALL PHOTOS BUMFUZZLE

making it safely to the Bahamas (on their second attempt). A winter season there gave them enough sailing practice and confidence to set off in April of 2004 for

Panama nonstop, a seven-day voyage of 740 miles which officially launched them into bluewater circumnavigation mode. Much to the amazement of many

— IT'S ONLY MONEY

seasoned voyagers, these self-taught neophytes successfully completed their global lap unscathed (via the Panama and Suez canals) in April of this year.

Although you could certainly classify Pat and Ali as being loose and relatively carefree, there's also a thoughtful, analytical side to them which led them to complete not only a comprehensive web

"We didn't know anything about anything as far as boat designs and builders go. Still don't, really."

journal of the entire trip, but also the dollar-by-dollar accounting of their expenditures which appears below. They swear it's accurate to within \$10. Theirs was certainly not the cheapest trip around that we've ever heard of, nor was it the most expensive. As they say, they were in a mood to "blow some money."

As the Bumfuzzlers sailed — and sometimes bumbled — their way around the world, their detailed blog (primarily written by Pat) attracted a substantial following. Most who perused it supported the couple's youthful exuberance and cocky, nothin'-to-it attitude. But others penned cutting criticisms of them, apparently resentful that this decidedly unsalty pair was able to 'fake it' all the

THE BUMFUZZLE LEDGER

"What's it cost to sail around the world? Here is our answer — quite possibly the only accurate accounting of a trip like this on the Internet. We estimate that there is less than \$10 missing from this list."

Refit, September - October 2003:

watermaker w/install	7,634
SSB radio and modem w/install	6,550
rigging	4,042
general supplies	6,412
	\$24,638

Circumnavigation, September 2003 - April 2007:

	Sept 03	Oct 03	Nov 03	Dec 03
communication	76.91	164.02	576.78	44.00
food	355.04	545.94	680.10	552.42
diesel	39.00	231.68	37.40	170.50
marina/mooring	1,229.82	1,489.75	584.09	495.50
boat supplies	0	0	568.99	2,044.85
other	551.17	939.31	390.75	1,083.88
	\$2,251.94	\$3,370.70	\$2,838.11	\$4,391.15

Notes:

09/03: Month @ marina
10/03: Month @ marina; Harley rental
11/03: Annual Sailmail fee \$200; one-time FCC call sign registration
12/03: New house batteries; marina stay during the holidays; life insurance premiums

	Jan 04	Feb 04	Mar 04	Apr 04
communication	8.00	50.00	73.97	60.73
groceries	285.59	181.15	281.70	564.67
restaurants/bars	459.47	444.14	544.92	294.10
diesel	132.36	68.10	123.00	219.50
marina/mooring	270.00	30.00	0	86.50
boat supplies	123.10	82.35	323.04	2,466.34
other	452.66	177.45	564.45	1,599.42
	\$1,731.18	\$1,033.19	\$1,911.08	\$5,291.26

Notes:

01/04: Replenish groceries in Nassau; marina stay
02/04: Good month!
03/04: Too much fun in Georgetown
04/04: Panama Canal transit fees \$600; haulout/bottom painting; replenish groceries/beer

	May 04	Jun 04	Jul 04	Aug 04
communication	44.11	37.05	63.11	92.45
groceries	57.46	298.09	350.77	186.28
restaurants/bars	219.09	238.56	395.01	600.60
diesel	100.51	43.00	299.20	44.10
marina/mooring	5.00	0	0	0
boat supplies	203.84	243.83	103.05	461.30
other	609.62	3,586.91	420.05	731.01
	\$1,239.63	\$4,447.44	\$1,631.19	\$2,115.74

Notes:

05/04: Surprise stop in Colombia to refuel and customs fees
06/04: Replenish groceries; "other" includes Galapagos Legend Cruise of \$2,786
07/04: Beers \$4 and up; refill 3 propane tanks; diesel \$4/gallon

08/04: Expensive month eating/drinking out; purchased more chain and line; laundry fees

	Sept 04	Oct 04	Nov 04	Dec 04
communication	82.53	60.43	278.35	33.72
groceries	324.72	267.68	255.19	0
restaurants/bars	441.00	380.15	728.11	662.81
diesel	98.02	203.57	0	0
marina/mooring	193.07	37.05	0	0
boat supplies	210.33	133.07	1,787.66	446.09
other	3,960.46	1,295.37	3,559.27	3,514.43
	\$5,310.13	\$2,377.32	\$6,608.58	\$4,657.05

Notes:

09/04: Expensive food; 8 days at the quay Pape'ete; "other" includes flights home for the holidays of \$3,339
10/04: Car hires in both Tonga and NZ; car purchase in NZ
11/04: New window/seat coverings \$1,130; annual Sailmail fee \$250
12/04: Back in the US for the holidays; winter clothes; immunization shots \$336; dentist \$405; life insurance premiums

	Jan 05	Feb 05	Mar 05	Apr 05
communication	64.89	57.96	117.57	28.58
groceries	104.39	116.28	590.10	305.75
restaurants/bars	465.56	623.48	309.45	162.22
diesel	0	0	131.40	113.05
marina/mooring	0	217.51	307.77	72.42
boat supplies	316.46	367.06	1,265.35	63.50
other	2,251.57	3,241.12	1,918.75	411.12
	\$3,202.87	\$4,623.41	\$4,640.39	\$1,156.64

Notes:

01/05: Road trip: hostels/hotels \$403, petrol \$179, activities \$319; Volvo mechanic bill (saildrives, maintenance) \$680
02/05: Road trip South Island: hostels/hotels \$711, petrol \$426, activities \$976; not included
Boat Repair Costs
03/05: Road trip South Island continued: hostels/hotels \$149, petrol \$107, activities \$394; replace digital camera; new watermaker pump
04/05: New Volvo engine of \$5,244 not included

	May 05	Jun 05	Jul 05	Aug 05
communication	93.48	74.31	86.64	99.60
groceries	374.32	276.31	416.37	473.86
restaurants/bars	771.04	247.13	329.35	244.53
diesel	320.76	0	214.55	300.31
marina/mooring	91.20	289.60	253.08	114.57
boat supplies	96.60	135.40	1,140.29	909.99
other	2,546.34	659.54	1,024.98	640.66
	\$4,293.74	\$1,682.30	\$3,465.26	\$2,783.52

Notes:

05/05: Road trip: hostels/hotels \$424, petrol \$188; transportation (including 2 car hires, trains, buses, taxis) \$332; surfboard and accessories
06/05: Australia visa extensions \$150 each; marina berths
07/05: Starboard Engine Repair \$916 (part/mechanic); Fun (Brisbane hotel/Rugby Match/Lone Pine/Fraser 4x4) \$780
08/05: Boat supplies to include new regulator, courtesy flags, three diesel jerry cans; Indonesia CAIT paperwork courier

THE COST OF 'BUMFUZZLING'

	Sept 05	Oct 05	Nov 05	Dec 05
communication	82.73	33.69	276.35	57.89
groceries	662.04	268.77	151.81	102.77
restaurants/bars	749.63	236.97	369.65	378.07
diesel	0	192.01	387.74	0
marina/mooring	598.35	233.27	237.36	159.36
boat supplies	930.13	.99	200.85	279.56
other	<u>2,115.96</u>	<u>933.18</u>	<u>995.79</u>	<u>1,297.44</u>
	\$5,138.84	\$1,898.88	\$2,619.55	\$2,275.09

Notes:
09/05: Uluru road trip: car hire \$622 (including damage), hostels/hotels \$506, petrol \$176; boat supplies to include new jib/screecher line, jib/bimini repairs, oil
10/05: Marina costs in Darwin and Bali; car hire (including insurance and petrol) \$84; hotel rooms \$228
11/05: Sightseeing Bali/Kuala Lumpur/Singapore \$136; hotel rooms \$427; annual Sailmail fee \$250
12/05: Boat stuff: welder, dinghy repair, new docklines, marina fees; holidays in Bangkok: 'other' includes flights \$300, hotels \$389, Thai boxing, etc.

	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06
communication	70.51	5.48	21.04	29.56
groceries	102.00	125.79	292.65	53.53
restaurants/bars	304.83	194.66	356.63	243.53
diesel	324.24	179.79	194.59	280.00
marina/mooring	85.70	0	0	41.65
boat supplies	4.89	11.91	65.30	24.78
other	<u>817.92</u>	<u>291.32</u>	<u>648.68</u>	<u>681.64</u>
	\$1,710.09	\$808.95	\$1,578.89	\$1,354.69

Notes:
01/06: Thailand car/scooter rentals \$57; Sri Lanka tuk tuks/trains \$38; hotel rooms \$200
02/06: Good month!
03/06: Oman customs \$72; taxis/rental car \$137; night at the Hilton (including meals) \$355; Eritrea visas \$74
04/06: Asmara hotel \$192; Sudan clearance fees \$120; Egypt clearance fees \$50; Cairo hotel \$150



Pat claims his favorite cuisine is found at Taco Bell, McDonald's and in pizza parlors, but he also loves the fruits of the sea.

	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	Aug 06
communication	79.13	13.68	121.23	39.79
groceries	140.09	308.49	233.63	193.03
restaurants/bars	331.00	487.70	429.67	561.05
diesel	119.00	167.46	294.27	430.13
marina/mooring	274.33	333.35	535.13	450.89
boat supplies	640.61	66.63	1,112.20	50.00
other	<u>1,344.13</u>	<u>2,090.87</u>	<u>1,380.53</u>	<u>1,131.95</u>
	\$2,928.29	\$3,448.18	\$4,106.66	\$2,856.84

way around the world. In fact, their exploits created such a buzz on one online cruiser forum that all references to *Bumfuzzle* were eventually banned!

According to Pat and Ali, they navigated via GPS and electronic charts only (with no paper backups on board), rarely accessed weather forecasting, never participated in cruiser nets, had only the most basic knowledge of sail trim and knew virtually nothing about marlinspike seamanship. Their favorite 'cuisine' en route — when they could get it — was American-style fast food and pizza, and they'd get bummed out if they couldn't find a good cybercafe upon making landfall in order to update their website. To their credit, though, their *'Bumfuzzle Chronicles'* (at www.bumfuzzle.com) are unabashedly honest — even about their most clueless escapades. Consequently, some of them make very entertaining reading. Here's a sampling:

October 9, '03, Fort Lauderdale — "We are starting to come to terms with the fact that neither of us can cook anything, and so we are having a heck of a time trying to figure out what kind of food to store to last us a few months. After eating Taco Bell five nights a week for four years in Chicago, and pizza the other two, we are realizing we are going to starve out there. Oh well, I'm sure you can last quite a while on beer alone."

December 5, '03, Great Harbor Cay, Bahamas — "Now keep in mind that I really don't know anything about saltwater fishing. So I reel the first one in and he's got these huge teeth on him. I didn't know what the heck it was, but I knew it wasn't a tuna. I'm pinning him down with a leather glove on and trying to free the hook while Ali's yelling 'He's dead, isn't he?' (Turns out it was a barracuda. I got out my book to check.)"

March 18, '04, Georgetown, Bahamas — "Sitting here now, I almost can't believe that we didn't lose our boat today. We made every stupid mistake you can make. The biggest mistake, of course, was going out in terrible weather for absolutely no reason, other than that we were bored of Georgetown and wanted to move on."

April 8, '04, en route to Panama — "The Bahamas were like putting training wheels on a ten-year-old's bike. Sure, he could still wipe out, but it's not very likely. Try as we might, we just couldn't wreck our boat in the Bahamas. Now we are truly out here in the middle of nowhere with no nice safe anchorages to tuck into when the weather gets bad. It's exciting."

April 12, '04, en route to Panama — "Ali woke up at one point to find me swerving between three container ships. I had been in contact with one of the ships that seemed to be coming right up on us from behind. We talked for a minute and he altered course to give us a little more room. However, the other two ships seemed determined to run us down, and I ended up having to alter course 40 degrees at the last minute to slide behind them."

July 3, '04, en route from Galapagos to Marquesas — "Today I was once again reminded how very little I know about boats. I was looking at a West Marine catalog for a winch cleaning and

"Try as we might, we just couldn't wreck our boat in the Bahamas."



Heading west on their first big passage, Ali and Pat strike their Panamanian courtesy flag.

July 12, '04, Hiva Oa, Marquesas — "Paradise! Where? To say that we were a little disappointed with our first day in the Marquesas would be a huge understatement. On our passage over here, there were a couple of things that we were really looking forward to. Number one was getting something to eat at a restaurant. Preferably pizza, but really anything would do as long as we didn't have to make it."

July 19, '04, Hiva Oa, Marquesas — "We probably only have about two pounds of propane left and we won't be in Nuku Hiva for another few days. Once again our food prospects are pretty slim. Tomorrow will probably be peanut butter and jelly again. God, what we'd give for a Taco Bell."

As silly and inept as Pat makes himself and Ali out to be in their blog, it's pretty obvious that his tongue is always firmly implanted in his cheek. And we're certain he's not nearly as dumb as he sometimes appears to be. Remember, this is a guy who amassed enough money before his 30th birthday to buy a new boat and sail around the world.

In addition to his web log, he published several magazine articles while en route. In one, he theorizes that all the scary things you read about ocean sailing are a "conspiracy perpetu-

re-greasing kit . . . it keeps talking about one- or two-speed winches. My winches didn't seem to fit the one-speed category, but they were saying that the two-speed winches should be able to crank in either direction. One direction is at a 1:1 gear ratio meaning for every turn of the winch handle the drum makes one revolution. And the other direction is like a 6:1 ratio. So I go over to one of the winches and turn it counter-clockwise. Sure enough it spins at a 6:1 ratio. I have been raising the main by turning the winch clockwise, meaning, of course, that I am spinning the winch about six times more than I need to be! Moron! No wonder I would be so exhausted by the time I got the main all the way up."

Notes:
05/06: Cairo hotels \$403, sights \$103; Luxor/Aswan hotels \$205, sights \$64; new prop \$566; new battery \$52; Suez Canal all fees/tips \$530
06/06: Israel/Jordan road trip including visas/exit fees/rental cars/hotels/food \$1,279; plus marina fees
07/06: Stolen cash/camera in Goeck \$684; haulout/antifoul/mechanic \$1,169; outboard mechanic/parts \$235; Istanbul \$389 (hotels/transport/sights); Dotster hosting 1yr \$119
08/06: Bodrum marina 2 nights \$142; expensive diesel; ferry to/from Italy \$278; Italy rooms \$185, trains \$144

	Sept 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06
communication	90.22	42.50	272.06	30.00
groceries	40.03	473.22	413.58	28.01
restaurants/bars	688.13	501.41	501.49	74.86
diesel	366.67	498.23	270.90	0
marina/mooring	538.42	1,461.86	938.56	317.52
boat supplies	25.00	177.92	437.41	0
other	<u>2,561.02</u>	<u>858.02</u>	<u>1,214.21</u>	<u>204.79</u>
	\$4,309.49	\$4,013.16	\$4,048.21	\$655.18

Notes:
09/06: Italy rooms \$1,527, sights \$186, trains \$195, airfare \$218; Malta marina; plenty of diesel
10/06: Marina berthing, most expensive we have ever paid; lots of diesel; Volvo mechanic/part; jib repair
11/06: Annual Sailmail fee \$250; welder \$230; new fuel pump \$162; 2x rental car (including fuel) \$346
12/06: 18 days @ sea, 13 days @ dock/mooring for the holidays; least expensive month in over three years

	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07
communication	45.86	4.97	59.00	17.70
groceries	278.86	307.99	143.16	322.10
restaurants/bars	632.06	495.17	750.36	460.15
diesel	427.54	91.01	61.00	249.01
marina/mooring	24.55	105.00	21.00	1,187.51
boat supplies	232.40	241.14	86.90	262.60
other	<u>289.24</u>	<u>512.98</u>	<u>2,085.96</u>	<u>986.29</u>
	\$1,930.51	\$1,758.26	\$3,207.38	\$3,485.36

Notes:
01/07: Customs clearance fees \$47; Dominica rental car \$56 (fuel/local license); plenty of eating/drinking out; and diesel
02/07: Statia hotel room \$123; US customs decal \$25; bimini/linebag/hatch cover repair \$175; car rental Puerto Rico \$142
03/07: Puerto Rico rental car (including fuel) \$279; Puerto Rico hotels \$907; Dominican Republic immigration/custom/port fees \$131; Santo Domingo buses/hotels/sights \$207; Haiti immigration fees \$94; buses/hotels/sights \$320
04/07: Diesel in Dominican Republic; Las Olas marina expensive; rental car Florida 2 weeks (including fuel) \$370; new laptop not included

Scooting along through the Red Sea, 'Bumfuzzle' is escorted by a playful school of dolphins — a common experience in those waters.



THE COST OF 'BUMFUZZLING'

ated by book publishers and magazine editors" in order to keep people on land buying books and magazines! Darn. Busted. See, we told you he was smart.

In regard to the harsh critiques he and Ali have received from some quarters, he rebuts: "The tone of a lot of those criticisms made it sound as if our trip had ruined their lifelong excuse. As if they had always been able to tell themselves that it was too dangerous out there on the water, and they didn't have enough experience or the right boat. Now we were out there showing that none of that mattered, and now they no longer had any excuses for not doing what they always said they wanted to do."

So what advice do Pat and Ali have for the wannabes back home? "At the risk



The Bumfuzzlers often took time out for land touring. Here they strike a pose at an elephant park in Sri Lanka.

of sounding like a Nike ad, we would tell them to just go out and do it. Seriously, what's the worst that's going to happen? Read our blog and realize that not every sailing story has to include battling 50-ft rogue waves and 80-knot winds on every

passage. The highest winds we recorded on our entire trip were 50 knots in a squall 10 miles off the coast of Miami when we were returning at the end of our 32,000-mile journey."

Would they go 'round again? We doubt it, as they're already focused on their next adventure: competing in the Great American Race, driving coast-to-coast in a

1965 Porsche 356c. And after that, they plan to drive around the world in a fully restored 1958 VW van. "Unfortunately, Ali has this unnerving habit of saying yes to every crazy traveling adventure I come up with," says Pat. "But drive around the world? Really, I blame her for all of this!"

— latitude/at

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