

OCEAN NAVIGATOR ONLINE

www.oceannavigator.com

THE ONLINE RESOURCE FOR THE OFFSHORE SAILOR

» Search Articles

Search over 2000 articles by title, topic or author.

[Advanced Search](#)

» Browse Articles

[By Author](#)

[By Type](#)

[By Subject](#)

[By Issue](#)

» Features

[Boats, Gear & Services](#)

[Subscription Center](#)

[Ship's Store](#)

[Purchase Issue](#)

[Free Product Info.](#)

[Seminars](#)

[Home](#)

» Login

Username:

Password:

(case sensitive)

☐ Remember Me

[Forget Password / Username?](#)

[First Time Visitors](#)

Blind sailors depart for circumnavigation

 [Print This Article](#)

Twain Braden

OCEAN NAVIGATOR July/Aug 2005

Blind sailors Pamela Habek and Scott Duncan departed last fall from San Francisco aboard their Valiant 32, arriving in Mexico to prepare for their next adventure: sailing across the Pacific Ocean to the Marquesas. They will continue to New Zealand and Australia and hope to be the first blind people to circumnavigate the world unassisted.



Blind sailors Pamela Habek and Scott Duncan depart San Francisco on their planned circumnavigation.

Habek and Duncan departed Barra de Navidad, Mexico, on May 5 and by press time in mid-May had sailed nearly 1,000 miles from the coast. While Duncan is not totally blind — he is considered legally blind, but has partial vision — Habek is completely blind. The vessel's nav station is equipped with speech-output software, a speech-modified GPS, video magnifiers for magnifying paper charts, and color-coded running rigging.

"Our voyage is all about getting the word out about the true potential of people with disabilities, to both visually impaired and non-disabled people alike," they wrote via email after a week at sea. They were sailing under a reefed main and jib in 16 knots of wind, strategizing about their approach through the Intertropical Convergence Zone.

Habek and Duncan have received assistance from the following companies and organizations: Sendero Group (for speech-enhanced GPS software), Monitor Windvane, KVH, Icom, Viking Life-Saving Equipment, Navionics, Raymarine, Atomic Concept Group, American Foundation for the Blind, Club Nautique, Sorooptimist International, Mariner's Hardware, Sal's Inflatables and ZonePerfect.

"I am participating in this voyage to reach out to blind children everywhere that feel all alone and live by the limitations set by others," Habek said.

The couple plans to have sighted assistance upon entering foreign ports. Visit www.blind



FURUNO

FM3000



YOUR ONLY LINK TO DRY LAND SHOULD FEATURE FURUNO PERFORMANCE AND RELIABILITY

Built-in DSC capability for distress alert

One-touch Channel 16/9 key

Optional second station remote mic.

25 Watts or 1W RF output power

Store up to 40 messages

NOAA weather channels with alert function

sailing.com for more information and to follow their progress.

*This article has been posted in its entirety from the July/August 2005 issue. To
subscribe to the print magazine, [Click here](#)
To purchase this issue, [Click here](#).*

Blind sailors depart for circumnavigation page 1 of 1

[Home](#) [Contact Us](#) [About Us](#) [Advertising](#) [Info](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Site Help](#)