

From Dana Point, CA to Chi-Chi Shima Japan in a Dana 24, Alone!



May 24 – July 3
40 days
3,826 miles

April 14 – May 17
32 days
2,682 miles



From April through July, 2002, Yasuo Hayama sailed his Dana 24 singlehanded from Dana Point Harbor to Tokyo Bay, Japan. Following is a brief account of his voyage (translated from Japanese):

1. Journey

California – Hawaii

Sailed from Dana Point Marina April 14 at 0945. Arrived at Hawaii Honolulu Ala-Wai Boat Harbor on May 17 at 0630.
Days underway – 32
Distance — 2,682 miles
Speed made good – 3.5 knots
Wind strength: Prevailing wind was Force 4. Winds were mostly Force 4, along with Force 3 and 2 (73%)
Wind direction: Mostly Notherly, with some East and West. Very little South on this passage.

Hawaii – Chi-Chi Shima (Japan)

Sailed from Ala-Wai Boat Harbor on May 24 at 1330. Arrived at Chi-Chi Shima Hutami Harbor on July 3 at 1045.
Days underway – 40
Distance — 3,826 miles
Speed made good — 4.0 knots
Wind strength: Prevailing wind was Force 3. Force 3 and Force 4 and 2 winds 80% of the voyage.
Wind direction: Mostly Easterly (55%). The E wind plus NE wind and ENE wind prevailed on the passage (90%).

Chi-Chi Shima – Gokasho (Mie Prefecture)

Sailed from Chi-Chi Shima Hutami Harbor on July 14 at 1535. Arrived Gokasho Kaiyujin Marina on July 20 at 1930.
Days underway — 6
Distance — 638 miles
Speed made good — 4.3knots
Wind strength: Wind Force 3 (mostly) plus Force 4 and 2 prevailed (82%)
Wind direction: Mostly Southwesterly to West - Southwest (86%)

2. Weather

It became stormy for a week after my departure from the California coast. A Force 6-7 Westerly day and night. The waves were huge, and the Dana 24 rolled hard. In the trade winds zone, the North and Northeasterly winds were favorable on my Southwest to West course. Force 6 winds prevailed in this part of the journey.

From Hawaii to Chi-Chi Shima, Easterly Force 2-4 winds prevailed.

From Chi-Chi Shima to Gokasho, a Southwest wind generated by Typhoon no.7 prevailed throught the passage. On July 16, the third day of the passage, the wind vane broke under gale force winds.

3. Boat Performance

Dana 24 performed to the highest standards. Stability, sailing ability, sea-kindliness, habitability were all good.
She is a very trustworthy vessel. She is superior in sailing ability and she is very stable and habitable. She is a very swift horse downwind. The cockpit is very comfortable, allowing little spray. The boat is very sturdy, and suffered no damages on Pacific passage.

Dream Catcher Yachts is proud to have been a part of Mr. Hayama's incredible trip across the Pacific. When Yasuo Hayama decided it was time to purchase his sailboat, he looked for a manufacturer who could produce a truly capable and sturdy blue water yacht. He found those qualities in his Pacific Seacraft Dana 24. He flew over to the United States and took delivery of his Dana in the spring of '02. Upon the commissioning and outfitting of his Dana, Mr. Hayama set sail for his homeland of Japan, solo.

Yasuo Hayama spent several weeks in Dana Point while his Dana 24 was being commissioned and outfitted. It was an incredible experience for all of us. Mr. Hayama's spirit and courage left a lasting impression on us all. We were dockside the morning of his departure to photograph the beginning of his extraordinary passage. Yasuo and his Dana 24 are of the same design; strong, courageous and ready for adventure.