

The Voyage of "Raiatea" Pacific Seacraft Dana 24 No. 99

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When Steve Chapkis met Martina on a tropical South Pacific island four years ago, each was already involved in their own special adventure. Martina had flown from her small Tyrolean village halfway round the globe to work on a cruise ship. Steve had sailed there from California in his Pacific Seacraft Flicka.

"It didn't take us long after meeting to realize that we wanted to sail together," smiles Steve. "And while it's not at all unusual for someone to progress from a larger boat to the quality and security of a smaller Pacific Seacraft, Martina's step from a cruise ship to the Flicka 20 has to be a record. And it's a step that we've never regretted. That Flicka was an amazing little boat."

So when Steve and Martina decided the time was right to move up a notch in size, they knew precisely which boat they would entrust with their dreams: The Pacific Seacraft Dana 24.

"Once you've cruised in a Pacific Seacraft," says Steve, "it's hard to imagine going to sea in anything else. I like to relax and have fun when I'm sailing, whether it's across the bay or across an ocean. And there's nothing like being in a Pacific Seacraft to give you absolute peace of mind."



"There's something about this cruising life that intensifies experiences. Discussions are more earnest, friendships faster, appetites heartier and life more plain fun."

The joys of cruising a Dana

"One of the rare things about Pacific Seacraft boats is that they're truly ready for cruising right out of the factory. You don't have to modify or reinforce anything like you do on so many cruising boats. Three months after Martina and I took delivery of our Dana in California, we were sipping margaritas at anchor in Cabo San Lucas."

Pacific Seacraft boats have long been the focus of sincere and heartfelt praise. Famed sailing writer Ferenc Mate' devotes an entire chapter of his book *The World's Best Sailboats* to Pacific Seacraft. "Without a doubt," writes Mr. Mate', "the most outstanding cross section of cruising boats in this book is built by Pacific Seacraft." In its issue devoted to the 100 American products recognized to be the finest of their kind



Steve and Martina's Dana 24, Raiatea, anchored in Las Hadas during a voyage from California to the Sea of Cortez, Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

in the world, FORTUNE magazine named Pacific Seacraft's as the world's best cruising boats - the only sailboat manufacturer named. Perhaps most important, countless Pacific Seacraft boats have been sailed with confidence and comfort to the far corners of the world.

"We've been cruising our Dana for two years now with literally zero problems," says Steve. "Rest of all, I don't foresee having any. The Dana is obviously very well built; but just as important, she's exceptionally well conceived for cruising. Everything is accessible for easy maintenance. You never have the feeling that there's a problem hiding somewhere or that things are getting away from you. The boat is a joy to own. "And," says Steve, "she's a lot of fun to sail."

Sunsets, lobster and friendship

"After arriving at the tip of that 800-mile long breakwater called the Baja Peninsula, we turned left and explored the Sea of Cortez for months. We collected some wonderful memories: of fish and lobster feasts in San Juanico; of warm evenings at anchor, stretched out in *Raiatea's* cockpit, watching the sun set behind pink and red sandstone bluffs streaked with mineral swaths of yellow and green; of pedaling our folding bikes through small villages with throngs of enthralled children eating our dust; of perfect daysails in hot desert winds; of Martina dancing the polka with her visiting brother and his friend aboard *Raiatea* late into the night, Tyrolean melodies yodeling from the speakers and coyotes howling in the nearby hills.

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"And the Dana lets us have that fun. *Raiatea* is small enough to be easily handled by either one of us, so sailing her is pure joy-never intimidating. Yet she's so spacious that we can entertain friends in style. Martina loves to cook.

I know she hates me saying this, but she's developed quite a reputation among our cruising friends for her gourmet meals. She can get downright creative in the Dana's galley. And I'm always proud to have friends join us aboard, whether it's for an evening of games or an elegant meal."

A perfect adventure

"This voyage has been the perfect adventure, full of nice surprises," says Steve. "Like bring guests of Guatemala's navy at a port that was previously off-limits to cruisers - then meeting a Salvadoran traveling screw salesman there who took us on his rounds to remote Guatemalan Indian villages, and convinced us to sail to his country, of mooring *Raiatea* among the shrimping fleet and gun boats in El Salvador; of watching volcanoes erupt off our port beam and seeing sea turtles dodge our bow...."



Martina with the catch of the day.

Pacific Seacraft Corporation understands that cruising can be an incomparable joy - and a serious proposition. And Pacific Seacraft quality contributes a certain confidence to any voyage. "The Dana has really taken care of us," says Steve. "Whether we were reaching under storm sails in howling winds just beyond the surf in Tehuantepec, or beating for two days into a gale in the Gulf of Papagayo, I've never had to worry about the boat. That peace of mind is invaluable. It allows us to relax and enjoy the adventure." Whether your adventure lies far beyond the horizon or just across the bay, let the Pacific Seacraft Dana 24 make your dreams come true. Come, feel the assurance of Pacific Seacraft quality.

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