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MABUHAY

SABRE 362

2011—First Marion Bermuda

HOW DO YOU SELECT YOUR CREW?

Recruit Skillful mariners with good judgment. Three had far more experience at sea, and in races than I had. Skills are important in allied areas, a software engineer (we had PACTOR via Winlink) , and other programs to conquer, as well as a hardware engineer to help get/keep the ship working well (a boson's chair even in Hamilton for the trip home) despite the beating of wind and waves. And of course an experienced woman dinghy sailor to balance and raise the level of our crew.

WHAT SETS MARION BERMUDA APART FROM OTHER OCEAN RACES?

The gulf stream as a remarkable current to cross. The variability of the Bermuda high. The wonderful reception at the RHADC, the kindness of our hosts and the amazing show at the Governor's mansion. The latter is worth the trip in my opinion.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO DO THE RACE: In 2003 I sailed with Skipper Jose Venegas in the MB race on his 36 ft Beneteau "Ipanema". Jose is a great racing captain and I learned so very much from him and enjoyed that race (wherein we took Silver in our class). It remained for me to enter a period in my life when there would be sufficient time and resources to prepare my own boat, a 36 ft Sabre 362 named "Mabuhay" (a Philippine word meaning long life and good health) for this remarkable journey.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FIRST TIME SKIPPERS: Give yourself a full 4 months of perhaps ¼ time effort to prepare the craft for the race. Get good advice and help from engineers and software experts. Attend as many of the preparation seminars and special events (especially safety and rafts in the MIT pool). Surprisingly much of the information is difficult to glean from INS standard sources (i.e. how to return to the USA with Foreign crew) .

PREPARATION TIPS: Dutifully prepare each required safety item. You may never need them but they are quite useful to learn about and possess. Don't skimp on the medical bag. Seasickness has occurred on each of my two voyages to several experienced sailors. Having a full drug kit including methods not requiring swallowing pills is very valuable therapy (i.e. IV or suppositories). Bring a full crew, you never know how many you will lose to mal de mer.

