



Blind Circumnavigation

“A blind man’s quest to sail around the world non-stop”

Blind Circumnavigation Introduction

Mankind's passion to sail the seas is a desire that is ingrained in many hearts and minds. This desire is what has motivated and inspired most of the great sailors from the Vikings to the Renaissance explorers such as Columbus and Magellan. This desire is one that still motivates and inspires sailors today.

Kristopher Scheppe is equally inspired and motivated by a great love of sailing the seas. Just as Magellan and his crew used their passion to become the first sailors to successfully sail around the world, Scheppe strives to become the first legally blind person to achieve the same goal.

At a very young age Scheppe was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP). RP is a genetic eye disease, which results in gradual loss of peripheral vision and legal-blindness in most cases. Kris' sight allows him to see directly ahead through a small patch of central vision, commonly referred to as "tunnel vision".

Being legally blind has not stopped Scheppe from accomplishing great things throughout his life. He realizes that blindness will not stop him from doing the same things that sighted people do; they may just be done a little differently.

Scheppe has been sailing for 15 years. He started sailing with his parents aboard a San Juan 21 on Lake Norman in North Carolina. His father taught him the art of sailing, creating the perfect father and son crew. After moving to Wisconsin in 1994 Scheppe and his father cruised on Lake Michigan aboard a S2 8.0C 26' center-cockpit. Together they explored many ports along the Wisconsin shoreline of Lake Michigan.

He sailed aboard a 45' catamaran in the British Virgin Islands for 21 days where he participated in underwater research projects and furthered his SCUBA training in 1999. In 2003 Scheppe met Capt. Eric Smith of the research vessel Discoverer Ketty Lund and was invited to join the Discoverer crew as an intern. The Ketty Lund is a 73' Danish fishing trawler, converted into a research vessel. In June of 2005 Scheppe was invited by the Edison Sailing Center to sail a Gulfstar 50 from Belize to Fort Myers and in April of 2007 was invited again to sail from Fort Myers to Roatan, Honduras. On these passages Scheppe logged over 1300 sea miles and nearly two weeks of sailing in the open ocean.

Scheppe now lives on his Ericson 29 sailboat named Morgana, which he sails out of Fort Myers, FL. Scheppe founded the Florida Gulf Coast University Sailing Club in Fort Myers that teaches sailing to college students and is now actively competing in the Intercollegiate Sailing Association.

Scheppe's vision is to be the first legally blind person to sail around the world non-stop. This is a great feat that many sighted people would never try. Kris aims to prove that with determination and hard work those that are legally blind can achieve their dreams and make great contributions to society.

Now, the time has come to go forward with this vision and make it a reality, thus, Blind Circumnavigation was born. Kris is eager to get plans in order to embark on the journey of his lifetime.

Blind Circumnavigation Skipper



Kristopher Scheppe

Age: 29
Height: 5'3"
Weight: 120 lbs.

Education:

Sheboygan Falls High School

- High School Diploma
- Captain of the Wrestling Team
- Eastern Wisconsin Conference Champion in wrestling 1997
- Member of the Cross Country Team
- Member of the Track Team

Florida Keys Community College

- Associates Degree in Marine Environmental Technology
- Associates Degree in Diving Business and Technology
- Presidents List 2001 - 2002
- Deans List 2002 - 2003

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) - Graduated Cum Laud

- Bachelors Degree in Environmental Studies
- Minor in Computer Information Systems
- Deans List 2004 - 2005
- Director of Environmental Affairs (Student Government)
- Founder and Commodore of FGCU Sailing Club (Actively competes in the Intercollegiate Sailing Association)
- President of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- Member of Golden Key International Honor Society
- FGCU Powerlifting Team
 - Third place in the 2005 USAPL Collegiate Nationals
 - Second place in the 2005 North American Powerlifting Championships

Career:

Kristopher A. Scheppe Computer Consulting Services

- Comp TIA A+ Certification
- Computer Programmer
- Computer Repair
- Computer Consulting

Blind Sailing Unlimited - Teaching the legally blind the art of sailing.

- Founder
- Chairman of the Board

Memberships/Clubs:

Florida Association of Blind Students

- Treasurer (2006-07)

National Federation of the Blind

Seven Seas Cruising Association

- Charlotte Harbor/Fort Myers/Naples/Marco Island Metro Coordinator

Edison Sailing Center

- Webmaster

United States Association of Blind Athletes - Life Member

- Powerlifting Team Member
- Three time International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) Gold Medalist.

National Eagle Scout Association - Life Member

Hobbies:

Scuba Diving

- PADI certified Master Diver with specialties in Underwater Naturalists, Research Diver, Deep Diver, Equipment Specialists, Nitrox Diver, Underwater Photography, Drysuit Diver, Wreck Diver & Medic First Aid.

Photography

- Underwater Photography & Landscape Photography.

Amateur Radio Operator - KB9LYT

- Technician 1995
- General Class 2000

Other Achievements:

Boy Scouts of America 1986 - 1998

- Eagle Scout
- Scuba staff for 2001 National Scout Jamboree

Goals of Blind Circumnavigation

- Set record for the first legally blind person to circumnavigate the world under the WSSRC rules
- Educate the public about capabilities of legally blind persons.
- Inspire legally blind persons to reach for their dreams and achieve them
- Produce a documentary showing the public how a legally blind sailor can sail around the world
- Provide web-based interactive tools for people worldwide to follow the circumnavigation
- Collect ocean and atmospheric data to be used by NOAA and other scientific organizations

Media Coverage

The Blind Circumnavigation has attracted local, national, and international news coverage and will provide great exposure for your company. It is just the beginning and Kris has already gained recognition from the following media outlets.:

- Fort Myers News-Press
- WINK-TV News (Fort Myers, FL)
- Minnesota Club (Cape Coral, FL)
- National Federation of the Blind of Florida Convention (Boca Raton, FL)
- Physical Issues Radio (Jacksonville, FL)
- St. Pete Times (St. Petersburg, FL)
- YachtBlast (St. Maarten & Bonaire)
- Insight Radio (UK)
- Yacht Yakka (New Zealand)
- Sailing Anarchy (US)
- Scuttlebutt (US)

Equipment

In order to complete his voyage Kris will need specialized equipment for safety, navigation, communication, and survival. The following list are items that will be required:

Marine computer, GPS, nav instruments, radar, autopilot, talking compass, NMEA talker, NMEA multiplexer, VHF radio, handheld VHF, HF/SSB radio, AIS transponder, AIS display, Ham HF/VHF radio, Cameras and mounts, Inmarsat, liferaft, ditch bag, EPIRB, PLB, foul weather gear, drysuit, safety harness and tether, drogue, sea anchor, watermaker, windvane self-steering, freeze-dried food.



Blind Circumnavigation Sponsorship Packages

ELITE SPONSORSHIP

Title Sponsor - \$100,000

- Expedition will be titled “Your Company Name - Blind Circumnavigation”
- 8 tickets to Skippers Ball
- 2 Seats on support vessel for Start and Finish of expedition
- Large logo display on both sides of boat or sail
- Use of Images and Video of the Blind Circumnavigation
- Use of boat for corporate events/entertaining clients
- 3 day Cruise w/provisions on circumnavigation vessel with Kris Scheppe
- Speaking Presentation or Personal Appearance by Kris Scheppe
- Logo and link on website

Documentary Sponsor - \$80,000

- Exclusive Promo to be included in documentary
- 2 Seats on support vessel for Start and Finish of expedition
- 6 tickets to Skippers Ball
- Speaking Presentations or Personal Appearance by Kris Scheppe
- Logo and link on website

Podcast Sponsor - \$60,000

- 30 second promo on every podcast
- 6 tickets to Skippers Ball
- 2 Seats on support vessel for Start and Finish of expedition
- Speaking Presentations or Personal Appearance by Kris Scheppe
- Logo and link on website

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

Platinum - \$50,000

- 4 tickets to Skippers Ball
- 2 Seats on support vessel for Start and Finish of expedition
- Speaking Presentation or Personal Appearance by Kris Scheppe
- Use of boat for corporate events/entertaining clients
- Medium logo display on side of boat or sail
- Logo and link on website

Gold - \$25,000

- 2 tickets to Skippers Ball
- Speaking Presentation or Personal Appearance by Kris Scheppe
- Medium logo display on side of boat or sail

- Logo and link on website

Silver - \$10,000

- 2 tickets to Skippers Ball
- Small logo display on side of boat or sail
- Logo and link on website

We invite you to become a Sponsor of this history making voyage please contact either Kristopher Scheppe (920) 737-5735 or Karen Servis (239) 671-6645