The Voyage of "Alsvld"
Pacific Seacraft Flicka No. 7

"There is a reason why nearly 400 Pacific Seacraft Flickas are now plying the oceans of the world.

A magical voyage

When Steve Chapkin caught the dream of Pacific Island cruising, he wouldn't let go. He worked hard, saved his money, and bought a Pacific Seacraft Flicka. Then one sparkling summer's day, he and a friend set sail on the adventure of a lifetime.

"I'd read all the books, and dreamt of it more than most," smiles Steve. "But nothing could have prepared me for the joy of really doing it: of sailing my own boat across a big ocean, of skipping past Diamond Head after a magical 30-day passage from California, of our sightline cruise off Hawaii's windward coast, outbound for Tahiti, while Ms. Kilona etched behind us, of really crossing the equator, of sailing upon ocean in the company of dolphins, of watching Tahiti's lush mountains rise up before us on the horizon, of exploring places like Hualapai, Bora Bora, Rangiroa, Futuna, of watching Halley's Comet draped over Moorea's jagged peaks, even of falling in love in the South Pacific...."

Perfect freedom in a Flicka

Steve's choice of a Pacific Seacraft Flicka was not haphazard. "I wanted to really go," he explains, "but I wasn't crazy enough to buy just any boat and head for the horizon. It's important to have complete confidence in your boat.

An excellent equatorial crossing on a passage that included two 24-hour runs of 300 nautical miles.

"Pacific Seacraft has a superb reputation. All of their boats are designed and built for world cruising, and the Flicka was the perfect boat for me."

Of course a primary consideration for Steve - the factor that lets so many dream of the araphot - was money. His Flicka allowed him to cut the strings. "She's a real go anywhere workhorse," says Steve. "And she's affordable. I still had to work hard, but at least I was toward an attainable goal. I put it in practice at the office and stuck tightly to my budget - but when we caught that first Mahi Mahi was an unexpected reward. That evening off the Hawaiian Islands, the sacrifices seemed well justified."

Steve's Pacific Seacraft Flicka rests at anchor below Moorea's jagged peaks after a 4832 mile voyage from California. "The Flicka performed flawlessly."

Outstanding performance

Something Steve wasn't expecting was the kind of cruising performance they achieved in his Flicka. "Alsvld was sitting pretty low on her lines when we set sail, and I was prepared to be very patient. During our first several days out of King Harbor we had unusually light winds and I thought we might ghost our way to Hawaii. Then we hit the trades and were off and running, averaging 15 miles/day. We had a couple wild celebrations when we made 180 miles noon-to-moon!"

Steve explains that "there's a sort of satisfaction in keeping a boat sailing really efficiently. Of course we had some luck in our 20-day passage to Hawaii on 15 of waterline. But we always kept Alsvld sailing along happily - there was nothing very intimidating about sail changes when the foredeck's only 30 feet away and the working jib is 115 square feet!"

Steve seeking local knowledge in Hualapai. Comfortable and confident

"Granted, Alsvld is a small boat. But I came to feel a bit guilty at so often being the center of attention among those who couldn't believe we'd sailed so far in such a tiny boat. After all, we made some respectable passages, never had a worry about the boat, and enjoyed the entire voyage."

Steve is not a pint-sized sailor. "I'm 6'1", 180 lbs., and Marcy's just six inches smaller. I'd lived alone comfortably on Alsvld for a month before we took off. Even after we'd sold our provisions, equipment, and a year's supply of books aboard, Alsvld still felt like home - and Marcy turned out to be quite a gourmet cook! We were comfortable and had confidence in our boat. So we relaxed and enjoyed the time of our lives."

"I'm proud of my Flicka. She's a lovely little ship, built like a tank, and she's a great cruiser... but most of all, she already carries more dreams than most boats twice her size - and still has room for more."

Let Pacific Seacraft bring your dreams home too.

Specifications and further facts: LOA including bowsprit 24'9"; LOB 20'2"; LWL 16'2"; Beam 8'; Draft 3'3". Cruising displacement 5500 lbs.; Loadline 8'000 lbs.; Sail Area 350 sq. ft. (For a descriptive brochure, send $1).

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