



Africa to the Americas 2011

Ocean Adventure Racing Northwest
PO Box 31402
Seattle, WA 98103

A federally recognized 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization

Starpath
Dr. David Burch
3050 NW 63rd Street
Seattle, WA 98107

Dear David,

This was a long time coming and I hope that though it's belated, it does not lessen the fact that I speak for all of us on that boat on the Atlantic in 2006, and in the further adventures with Greg in 2008 that it has been an extreme honor and privilege getting to work with and know you as a friend. Please accept this picture as a small token of gratitude.

We could not have accomplished as safe and swift an ocean-rowing crossing without your tireless work. Going over the emails as I have been writing my book, it has been absolutely astonishing to realize once again just how much of yourself you gave. It was an example of seamanship and friendship that is truly overwhelming.

As the relationship between the boat and you here in Ballard developed over the summer it was clear that your decision to help turned you into de-facto coach and mentor to our team as words of encouragement and wisdom began to appear with the truly exhausting amount of data and analysis you provided. The moment that sums up our impression of you was when you called Todd in Falmouth from Ballard and told him to move the boat to our NW Quarter. It summed up our impression of you. To quote Dylan "David may not control the weather but he knows the people that do."

Two years later your same coaching and friendship was expressed when you encouraged, (instigated?) and helped plan the circumnavigation of the Olympic Peninsula. Your support while we were lost in the black swamp was critical to our finishing that trip as well as the firm words you gave when we needed the push. You may not remember them but "Just look out for the little blue line" was our mantra and kick in the rear we needed to push through the last 400 feet of thicket before Black Lake. This also introduced me to my favorite tool: the machete.

A mealy understanding of how weather works, and a great deal of seamanship on and off the water is something I and the rest of OAR Northwest owe to you. Thank you. We remain truly humbled with your help and good will.

Your friend,
Jordan, for OAR Northwest, "The Oar Boys"