

# PNW Sailor Couple profiles

A 48° North Valentine's Special Report



By Cara Kuhlman

Even casual sailors spend an impressive amount of time talking about boats. The diehard ones rarely seem to come ashore. For many sailing is a lifestyle. It is not too surprising that many couples meet or spend their time in the sailing community.

Two sailors may come together through sailing itself, others might

share their passion with their partner, or in some cases a couple learns to sail together. What all these couples have in common is the important role sailing has, and continues to have, in their lives and relationships. Whether on the water or on shore, these Pacific Northwest Sailor Couples are their own "crew of two."



## *Finding the Rhythm Within 14 Feet*

### Haley Lane & Anthony Boscolo

**Status:** Engaged

**First met:** Four and a half years ago at a NW college sailing alumni regatta

**Boat(s):** A 14' Tasar, most recently named *Cohete Azul*.

Haley and Anthony always have boxes of granola bars on hand. After years of youth, college, and now Tasar sailing, they understand the high stakes of hunger. Learning to anticipate low blood sugar and to avoid raising tempers likely contributed to the couple's success racing Tasars. This includes a decisive victory at the 2013 Tasar World Championship, held in Cascade Locks, Oregon, the same venue where they first met.

Both Haley and Anthony sailed for the University of Washington, but did not overlap. In the lead up to the annual alumni regatta, Haley's regular skipper decided to stay on shore due to a concerning concussion. Haley still wanted to sail, and sail with someone good. Familiar with Anthony's extensive sailing experience, she contacted him. He said, "No."

Anthony already planned to sail with his friend Zach, but that did not deter Haley. She found Zach a crew and took to the water with Anthony.

They began dating later that year.

Primarily competing in fleet and team race events, Haley and Anthony have sailed with a variety of other crews whether they are friends, strangers, or novices. Haley prefers sailing with her fiancé, "I like it better, I'm more comfortable." She's more likely to go sailing, especially in inclement weather, if it's with Anthony. Plus, he's prepared to address any hunger issues.

Anthony agrees it's different than sailing with others, "You're hanging out with them before, during, and after the whole event." If they get sick of each other or want to talk about the regatta, they don't worry about holding back with one another.

"I don't mind offending Haley." Anthony says smiling.

Together they have learned how to have a working relationship during and after the regatta. This includes perfecting packing for weekend adventures like skiing and most recently traveling to Australia for the

2015 Tasar World Championships.

Arriving in Western Australia just after Christmas, they saw *Cohete Azul* for the first time since loading the boat in a shipping container last October. Excited to find themselves back in summer and shaking off the sailing cobwebs, Haley and Anthony hit the water to defend their 2013 title.

After five days of racing in a 123-boat fleet, Haley and Anthony finished in 5th place, the second best finish for the five boats from Seattle. They both feel sailing together has been not only a shared interest but important for strengthening their relationship.

Before traveling to Australia, Anthony observed, "The nature of attending a regatta, physically and emotionally is good to test the waters for a relationship."

Now as they unpack and restock the granola bars, their focus turns towards their September wedding, and the sailing they'll be doing together in the future.

# Dreaming, Living, and Marrying like Sailors

## Michele Rogalin Henderson & Jon Henderson



**Status:** Married

**First met:** Through the Corinthian Yacht Club years ago, dated for a year, married in July of 2014!

**Boat(s):** Hunter 33, Beneteau 44, Ranger Minto, Laser, & models.

Michele got back into sailing nine years ago she, and to say she dove into it with enthusiasm would be an understatement. Scaling up from the catamarans she raced in college, Michele began sailing keelboats, getting on board with any crew she could. She increasingly involved herself with the sailing community and the Corinthian Yacht Club where she met and occasionally sailed with Jon.

A Seattle-native, Jon has logged innumerable hours on the Puget Sound in a variety of boats from Lasers and 50s, to Melges 24s and a local Farr 30. In addition to spending his free time sailing, Jon works at the North Sails loft, is the current CYC Race Fleet

Captain, and has been living aboard for over twelve years. He is completely immersed.

"Everything I do has something to do with sailing. Eating, breathing, and dreaming..." Jon explains.

"Was I on the boat this time?" Michele asks teasingly.

Whether he dreamed it this time or not, Michele and Jon are often together on one boat or another. Michele moved aboard about a year ago. She is also learning more about cruising from Jon.

"I'm not trying to race the other cruisers as much anymore," she jokes.

Jon and Michele do keep things competitive, most often on a Melges 24 and Farr 30, but never with each other.

Last July, Jon and Michele tied the knot, literally. Along with the ceremonial knot tying their wedding included a model boat regatta and nautical references throughout the ceremony. Jon even sewed Michele's wedding dress, the first time he's sewn something besides a sail. He did incorporate a bit of spinnaker cloth in the front of her dress, completing the theme.

After the wedding festivities wrapped up, Jon and Michele turned their energies towards the next step in their plan; a new boat to call home. They purchased a Beneteau 44 now named *Ardea* (latin for Great Blue Heron), after the naming ceremony held in January. Jon and Michele have big plans for the boat and their future; they are slated to begin sailing around the world in early 2016.

Boat projects, research, and sailing in Seattle keep them very busy for now but there is one destination that drives them.

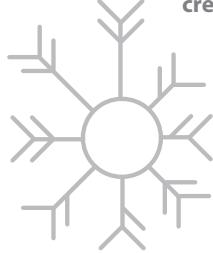
Michele cannot contain her excitement; "I have wanted to go to the Galapagos most of my life."

For Valentine's Day, Jon gave her charts of the Galapagos. For her birthday, it was a book about the biologically diverse islands, one of the world's most beautiful places.

Once they set sail, Jon and Michele aren't sure when they will return, somewhere between two and twelve years. Along the way they want to check out new towns, new snacks (Jon), and cultures. In an effort to keep their traveling lifestyle sustainable they plan to turn *Adrea* into a floating B&B where guests can also learn to fish, scuba dive, and of course, sail.

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While Barry and Kathy's first date went well, their first sail together didn't go as smoothly. A member of the Seattle Sailing Club and longtime racer, Barry took Kathy out on one of SSC's J/24s. Previously, Kathy had only sailed on a Sunfish, and never in March. Despite her willingness to go out, the Puget Sound decided to present a challenge. A short time into their sail, the breeze kicked up to nearly 20 knots.

Overwhelmed, Kathy felt sure she would die. Barry, stayed calm and returned them safely to shore, but felt sure she would never go out with him again. They both thought wrong. Back on shore, a windblown Kathy declared she loved it. She's learned more and more about sailing ever since.

Barry gradually and patiently taught Kathy to sail on a variety of boats over the next few years. They tiptoed into it. He made sure she enjoyed sailing, had positive experiences, and above all felt safe, with a little less excitement than that first day. They spent a lot of time talking about what happened under way, why they adjusted the sails, and keeping a close eye on the wind.

In addition to Barry's patience Kathy recalls his other strategy, "He would sit sipping his beer and say, 'Go ahead, Kath."

Over time, Kathy trimmed, steered, and stepped up to any task on the boat. Now they flip a coin each time to decide who will be the captain that day, taking the lead from beginning to end.

Kathy finds it thrilling how nature powers you and allows you to interact with it through sailing. Barry appreciates that it can throw you for a loop, a new problem to solve each time. He rarely stops trimming the sails, a



## *From Sailing Lessons to a Boat of Their Own* Kathy Barnes & Barry Constant

**Status:** Married

**First met:** Six years ago on a blind date, married three years ago.

**Boat(s):** Jeanneau 45, named *Blue Oasis*

racer at heart, which his wife doesn't hesitate to tease him about.

After sailing nearly year round for several years Barry and Kathy started planning for a boat of their own. Following months of research, trips to boat shows, and a thorough analysis of what they wanted in a boat, Barry and Kathy bought a Jeanneau 45 Sun Odyssey in July. Her name is *Blue Oasis*. The boat has provided them with a lot of new discoveries and they've enjoyed customizing it. They've named one such discovery, "Big Red."

As Kathy and Barry found their groove with the new boat, they came across a red asymmetrical spinnaker below deck they had yet to use. Kathy found the very large, very red sail intimidating. She and Barry tackled it as they had everything else, with

patience, teamwork, and ready to be thrown for a loop. Now they hoist "Big Red" at every opportunity.

Most of the time, Barry and Kathy go on day trips and short cruises sailing double-handed. After purchasing *Blue Oasis*, they told themselves they'd go out sailing in every month of the year. On January 1st, 2015, they set out with champagne and king crab to celebrate. Once, when they arrived to find several inches of snow on the boat, they swept it off and sailed anyway.

Kathy and Barry would like to take *Blue Oasis* farther afield, beginning with a trip to Desolation Sound this year. Longer term, they hope to retire aboard and sail south through the Panama Canal to the Caribbean. When they go, they'll be well practiced sailing together and embracing the journey.



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## *Crew of Four* **Beth & Mike Miller**



**Status:** Married

**First met:** Eckerd College (FL), dated five years, married in 2005

**Boat(s):** Norseman 535

Mike and Beth Miller made a significant investment in their first boat. The 39' Yorktown did not cost them much money, only \$1 in fact, but it demanded Mike and Beth's time and dedication. The investment paid off. They sold it and bought a boat to *enjoy*.

Where Mike and Beth spent many hours working on the Yorktown, they spent equally as many hours learning on their second boat, a Catalina 42. They didn't hold back either. "We broke it and bashed it. The Catalina 42 was very forgiving," Beth says.

Mike grew up sailing in Seattle. After high school, he crewed on a schooner running charters in Nova Scotia and the BVI. The whole experience he says "set me off." Mike flew south to Eckerd College where he and Beth lived in the same dorm.

Beth grew up in Illinois along a river with boats all around and she water skied competitively in college. While in Florida Beth played around in Lasers. Despite her comfort with water, when it came to sailing their much bigger boat, she had more to learn. Mike recognized he might not be the best instructor for her or she the best student for him. Beth signed up for a course with Windworks Sailing.

In 2008, Mike suggested they try living aboard, just for a few months. Beth agreed. After the initial trial she turned to Mike and said, "I bet we could raise kids on a boat." In 2011 their son Logan was born and has lived on a boat his whole life.

Beth felt more comfortable raising

a child aboard considering their neighbors. At least four families with young children live on their dock at Shilshole. It is a family-oriented community with bikes of all sizes and small sailing dinghies lining the slips. Beth's parents live aboard at Shilshole as well, one dock away. They moved out from Chicago two years ago. Initially uncertain about Beth and Mike's plans to live aboard, they ended up purchasing a 53-foot powerboat from the younger couple's neighbor.

Like many families, the Miller's are impressively busy. Mike works full-time and continues to tackle boat projects. He and Beth divide up boat projects in their spare time; there is even a spreadsheet. Beth is in nursing school and works at Dockside Solutions, where her clients are cruisers around the world. Beth and Mike have their own plans to go cruising and each completed boat project is a step closer. Together, they care for their other two crewmembers: Logan, now three, and Ginger, a sweet 14-year old lab.

Last summer the family spent eleven days cruising in the San Juan Islands. One day they found themselves surrounded by a pod of Orcas. "What did the Orcas do, Logan?" Beth asks. "They jumped for joy!" Logan says and demonstrates.

Mike and Beth hope to kick off their own cruising adventure soon. In the meantime the whole crew is incredibly at home on their boat. Beth says, "I'm not sure I ever want to live on land again!"

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