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Third Time's a Charm



On September 5, 2007 *Cloud Nine*, captained by owner Roger Swanson, successfully completed a transit of the Northwest Passage. This makes *Cloud Nine*:

- The first American sailing boat to complete the passage in one year.
- The first American sailing boat to complete the passage from east to west.
- The first boat of any flag to make the passage east to west in 2007.
- At age 76, Roger Swanson is probably the oldest person to make this passage.

The crew aboard the 57' Bowman ketch included Roger's wife, Gaynelle Templin, Doug Finley and Chris Parkman from San Francisco, David Thoreson from Okoboji, Iowa and Matt Drillio from Halifax.

Swanson's first attempt to transit the Northwest Passage ended unsuccessfully when he was stopped by ice near Resolute in 1994. His 2005 attempt ended when he was turned back by pack ice in Franklin Strait. At that time Swanson felt quite confident in saying "Never again." Two disappointments were enough. But Roger decided to give it another try and *Cloud Nine* and crew left Halifax on July 19, 2007. On September 29 they moored in the Kodiak Marina in Alaska, a trip of 73 days and 6,640 miles from Halifax. Their distance from the Arctic Circle going north, to the Arctic Circle going south was 3,433 nautical miles.

Roger Swanson is a member of the Seven Seas Cruising Association and was the recipient of their Seven Seas award in 1993. The award signifies the highest international recognition to a cruising sailor whose experiences on the sea demonstrate a deep commitment to good seamanship and an understanding of his ship and environment.

Info courtesy of the SSCA

US Paralympics Sailing Team Hires Canine Assistant

Morrow, a highly trained assistance dog from Canine Companions for Independence, has been provided free of charge to the 2008 U.S. Paralympics Sailing Team and is working with Coach Alison as a facility dog. Morrow assists the sailors not only by picking up dropped tools and such, but he also helps reduce stress and keep morale high. He's the first assistance dog to work with a disabled sports team, but Coach Alison reports that his addition to their team has been a complete success. They are busy training for their upcoming trip to China for the 2008 Paralympic games in September.

Bite Your Tongue

He who has not yet reached the opposite shore should not make fun of him who is drowning.

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