

SISC Sailing School Graduates are Circumnavigating the Globe

By Greg Slakov

Club members may recall identical twin boys who hung around the club a lot during the decade from 2010 to 2020. Callum and Cianan (say “Keenan”) McGuffin, *now just 23*, are sailing around the world in a 30 ft boat.



The twins at the equator.

Before giving you a few details of their present location and how to follow their epic voyage, I would like to share some highlights of their very impressive sailing careers. Callum and Cianan grew up on Salt Spring, and became passionate about sailing while taking lessons at SISC. They joined the racing team in about 2014 and quickly became our best junior sailors, racing their 420 to victory in the local regattas. When they graduated from our sailing school, they became SISC instructors and taught the next generation.



This photo shows the twins (first two on the left) with the rest of the SISC race team at the 2015 Maple Bay Regatta.

In 2017 they joined club member (and the next Fleet Captain Dinghy) Douglas Woolcock racing around Vancouver Island in the gruelling Van Isle 360. They managed to place very well in their division, and I recall Douglas telling me that they were indispensable members of the crew. Later that year they raced in the 420 Dinghy Canadian Junior Championship in Nova Scotia where they again placed very well.

Perhaps most impressively, they completed the 2019 Race to Alaska in their modified J24, and at the tender age of 19 they became the youngest team to do that, ever! For those who don't know about that race, you have to race an engineless boat from Port Townsend Washington to Ketchikan Alaska, a distance of 750 miles, without assistance of any kind.

But now to their present adventure. Cianan and Callum set sail from Victoria last year on their **1970(!)** Hunter-Vogel 30, bound for Hawaii. After 21 days they arrived and began to prepare for their next leg to Fiji. This 31 day voyage was completed later the same year.



Sailing around Fiji.

Their next leg took them to Whangarei, New Zealand. There, they decided to return to Canada to work as tree checkers over the summer of 2023. Then, with replenished coffers, they returned to New Zealand and sailed to Cairns Australia, arriving on Oct 1.



On the edge of a cyclone!

After doing some repairs and maintenance to the boat, they have just now begun their next leg, sailing their way up the Great Barrier Reef during the day and mooring at night, eventually hoping to end up in South Africa.

You can follow their voyage on the following tracker:

<https://forecast.predictwind.com/tracking/display/SV-Saumure/>

You can watch two YouTube videos documenting their first two legs:

<https://www.youtube.com/@mcguffinsailing3715>

In the videos, you will note that these young men are both quiet, gentle people. When I was coaching them, they just soaked up information without making any kind of fuss. But whenever they did say anything, I really listened hard because I knew that something of value was being shared!

If you would like to support them on this journey, you can become a Patreon member at

<https://www.patreon.com/McGuffinBrothersSailing>

If you join, you will receive biweekly updates of their voyage.

Finally, they are on social media at:

Facebook: McGuffin Brothers Adventures

Instagram: mcguffinbrothersadventures