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OUR MOST EPIC ADVENTURE

# THEIR OWN WAY

THREE INTREPID TRAWLER OWNERS SHARE THEIR  
MOST MEMORABLE PASSAGES AND  
THE LESSONS THEY LEARNED ALONG THE WAY.

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AS TOLD TO JAKE LAMB AND ROBERT STEPHENS



“IT WASN’T WHAT WE PLANNED AT ALL.”

— JULIE NARIMAN, on their crossing to the Azores (above)



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## BEATING TROPICAL STORM ANA ALONG THE CAROLINA COAST

WHO: *Diana and Les Shapiro* FROM: *Sarasota, Florida* TRAWLER: *Outer Reef 630*



### WE ALWAYS HAVE ON BOARD:

Kodi. Now 7, our yellow Labrador retriever understands at least 120 verbal commands with a vocabulary of more than 175 words.

**T**HE BIG QUESTION facing us on the morning Tropical Storm Ana approached was whether to run the Intra-coastal Waterway from Morehead City, North Carolina, to Norfolk, Virginia, wait out the storm, or head out into the Atlantic and try to outrun it. We trusted our Outer Reef, *Guided Discovery*, and chose the Atlantic. Some perspective: On another trip, we'd encountered a frontal passage at Cape Hatteras, and within 20 minutes the winds were gusting up to 54 knots. All of a sudden there were 7- to 9-foot waves and it was 10 o'clock at night.

In this case, Ana's winds were gusting above 60 knots nearly 100 miles to our south. Even with a fairly good forecast we knew we'd have about 12 hours of heavy seas. And then once we rounded

Cape Hatteras it was forecast to diminish. That's exactly what happened. We encountered 10- to 12-foot waves on a southeasterly heading going around Diamond Shoal. Fortunately the wave

period was between seven and nine seconds — we sat there counting the seconds. We took a lot of spray, but *Guided Discovery* never buried her nose.

Three hours after rounding Cape Hatteras we were in 3- to 4-footers. The sun was setting. It was lovely. Not many people get to test the outer limits of a boat safely. I've now seen this one handle 10 to 12 feet on at least two points of sail. Outer Reef says they can do 18 feet, but I don't think I ever want to go and find that out. ● **LESSON LEARNED:** Be conservative in rough conditions, even if you think the boat can handle it. Should something go wrong, you're all by yourself, possibly miles from help. ● **YOU'D NEVER KNOW:** In September 2014 we sold our Chicago property to live full time at sea, with two permanent slips in Florida and Massachusetts. — J.L.

BILLY BLACK



*Guided Discovery* was the first long-range motoryacht version of the Outer Reef 630 commissioned in the United States.