

January 15, 2004

King Neptune
c/o Manhattan Sailing Club
385 South End Ave #7G
New York, NY 10280

Dear King Neptune,

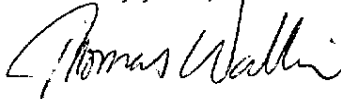
By means of this letter, I would like to apply for induction into the Blue Water Society of the Manhattan Sailing Club. As you will see below, my credentials are not particularly fresh. Furthermore, I am originally a Great Lakes sailor, and although I can make the unusual boast of having crossed all five of the Great Lakes under sail, I realize that achievement doesn't count for much in your world.

My claim for membership in the MSC Blue Water Society rests entirely upon a single ocean voyage from Cape May, New Jersey due east to Horta on the island of Faial in the Azores. The trip was about 2,000 nautical miles, and we were 24 days at sea. I did it as a member of a crew of four -- including my father, my brother and one of our best friends -- aboard my father's 33 foot Medalist sloop *Quest*. This was in late June and early July of 1981, when I was 28 years old, so I may have exceeded the statute of limitations for the Blue Water Society. I was the assistant navigator and chief supply officer for the trip. Back in those days, we did not have GPS, and Loran was a new and expensive technology. We used celestial navigation all the way and it was a unique opportunity to learn that skill from my father, who was a navigator in the Pacific during World War II.

In my family, we call the trip the Trans At '81 because my mom took my place in the crew from the Azores and they sailed the boat on from there to Gibraltar. It was a great experience. We crossed the Gulf Stream, saw whales and dolphins, and had our share of both strong winds and calms. Due to the season, the weather was pretty favorable, but even so, living aboard a small boat like that for over three weeks gives one a real respect and appreciation for the challenges that you can dish out, King Neptune.

I send this to you in hope of your favorable reply.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Wallin

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