



## BOAT DELIVERY

Excerpted from *Who's the Captain?*

BY MARY LAUDIEN

**T**he last post prairie girl wrote announced the purchase scheme husband made of a brand new Catalina 28 Mark II Anniversary Edition on their anniversary. It was purchased in Portland, Oregon, in early spring, and husband now had to figure out how to get it home to Thunderbird Marina in West Vancouver.

A captain was hired to sail their dream boat down the Columbia River from Portland to the coast and on to Bellingham. The weather was stormy and it meant the captain and his crew were holed up for a few days before making their way along the coastline in rocking and rolling seas. What should have taken them a couple of days, ended up taking a week! Husband kept in constant communication, frantically awaiting the call that their dream boat had arrived in Bellevue in one piece. He met them and took care of the import paperwork and costly duty. Husband and his friend sailed it to Point Robert's Marina until the working duo could find a date when the weather was more stable and they could find a day off together.

Finally the perfect day arrived for husband and prairie girl to retrieve their new boat and make their first sail home. And what a day! The sea gods were blessing their crossing. (Or so they thought...) Of course prairie girl was posed up on one of the railing seats basking in the sunshine, soaking in the thrill of being on the water in something so completely new. (Truly an exhilarating experience!) Can't you just picture prairie girl's Max Lotto daydream playing out in her head? Oh yeah... Suddenly she was snapped out of her reverie as a pod of whales was spotted off their port side. What a gift! This grabbed husband's attention as he ignored the wheel (so novel, after having a tiller) to focus on watching the whales. What was such a lovely delight suddenly became a bit frantic as the whales decided to venture closer toward us, as well. The wheel was immediately yanked away from the whales as they moved in

closer to their dream boat!

No sooner had they escaped the overly friendly whales, than husband happened to glance down at his depth sounder... loving all his new instrumentation! Without warning, they were once again thrown into panic mode, as husband questioned how they could possibly be in seven feet of water! They were just about to be hung up on the sand/mud flats from the Fraser River deposits. With all the distraction of the friendly whales, husband hadn't kept close attention to his GPS. Well, didn't they do a Hail Mary (and they aren't even Catholics) when the depth sounder started showing more water under their bottom!

Okay, prairie girl and husband need to be given a little slack... Understandably, they were totally giddy about being out on their new dream boat that they might not have been functioning on full throttle that day. Fortunately, the new boat made it safely into its Thunderbird Marina berth without a scrape or a scratch! They enjoyed some good laughs at themselves over their memorable first adventure on their dream boat.