

These days it often seems that the primary selection criteria when selecting a boat is the size of interior, the interior decorating and how close the galley appointments resemble the kitchen at home. Seaworthiness, sailing characteristics, ability to cross oceans and handle heavy weather, are often secondary, if really considered at all. If the boat is going to stay at the dock most of the time, with an occasional short day sail on a calm day, then such a selection process may make sense. I expect Alberg people don't usually tend to think that way. Most likely, not many Albergs were bought like that. The galley is no showpiece and the accommodation is fairly Spartan but its classically beautiful lines almost always attract comments. It is not however, just pretty, this boat can sail and handle very heavy weather admirably. This is easy to say but there is plenty of proof. For example I recently looked up Alberg on Youtube recently and saw Yves Gelin's single handing his Alberg Jean du Sud, on a circumnavigation of the southern ocean. I see an Alberg 30 Kolohe, 1500 nautical miles from the west coast of the United States, wing or wing doing 7 knots, its crew happily on their way to Hawaii. An Alberg 30 from the Chesapeake has recently completed a circumnavigation of the globe. I see another sailing joyfully in the Caribbean. One of our GLAA members sailed his Alberg from Pickering to Newfoundland and back a couple of years ago. Another recently crossed the Atlantic and back. This is only a small sampling of great adventures in Albergs and this is a boat, the youngest of which is 27 years old and the oldest 49. As far as we know of all of the 700 or more built by Whitby Boat Works, almost all are still in active service.

The Alberg 30 will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014. In 2014, there will be a number of events taking place in celebration of this milestone anniversary, including holding the 2014 Canada Day Rendezvous at the grand old Royal Canadian Yacht Club, a beautiful club with great facilities, ideally situated on the Toronto Islands. Another project for the anniversary year is to collect some interesting Alberg cruising stories. Anyone who has had a cruising adventure in an Alberg and who hasn't, is invited to submit the story to the GLAA webmaster, Dennis Litchfield, to be published here. You don't have to be an Ernest Hemingway to publish here but if you do you may become one.