

David Risch
Marion, MA

CORSAIR

C & C 40



HOW DO YOU SELECT YOUR CREW?

Three generations rooted in long-standing relationships. I included 77 year old friend and neighbor Ron Chevrier on whose boat, I had crewed in three previous Marion Bermuda races. Also aboard: my son David, 18, good friends Jeffrey Hallahan and Bob Kostyla, and Bob's son Chris, 23. Collectively they possessed complimentary skills; experience, strength, talent, wisdom, humor, bravery and a competitive spirit of adventure. While individual goals may vary at the onset of the race from standing in the winner's circle, to getting to the party first, the prize that motivated David Risch was sharing the journey itself.

FATHER SON TEAMS RETURN TO FINISH WHAT THEY STARTED

Ocean racing inevitably flushes out every character flaw and strength inherent in the crew. CORSAIR entered the race with one paramount mission; to share the humbling and exhilarating experience of an offshore race, bonding fathers, sons and good friends. They never expected what ultimately transpired in a surprising role reversal; the elder crewman witnessed the youngest members "man-up" in the most difficult role - handling the majority of care for Ron Chevrier with the utmost patience and compassion. By losing a crewman and gaining a patient who required personal care 24/7, Corsair's crew resourcefully created a pragmatic dynamic; they fused together naturally assuming their new roles without a word. Thinking Mother Nature would be their biggest concern, it was Human Nature that presented the most profound challenges... and strengths.

In no small part due to the skill of the sailors, it was ultimately their allegiance to each other that brought the SV Corsair and her crew safely into St. George's Harbor. Although Corsair did not finish the race, they did achieve a bonding experience they could never imagine. The fathers and sons have made a pact to come back in 2011 to cross the finish line and finally say, "Mission accomplished".

