



OCEAN CRUISING CLUB®

For Immediate Release

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## **Three OCC Challenge Grants Awarded for 2020**

**Devon, UK, 10 August 2020** – In 2019, the Ocean Cruising Club began to support challenging ocean endeavours and is proud to stand behind the individuals and their projects which seek the betterment of the sailing community and maritime environment. The first recipients, Jon Sanders and Bert terHart, were both OCC members. In 2020, the OCC General Committee is pleased to announce extension of the grant programme to non-members who can satisfy the OCC requirements for membership.

Lauren Henry, who has assumed the role of the OCC Challenge Grant subcommittee Chair, remarked, “Despite the difficulties Covid has presented to the cruising community, the Grant programme was lucky to have recently received several very different proposals and, after much discussion, the subcommittee felt three were deserving of funding, only one of whom was already an OCC member. We are very excited to open the applications process to any bluewater sailor who can satisfy the 1000 nm passage requirement for OCC membership. The grant stipulates that all awards will include an OCC membership for qualified individuals.”

### **Philippe Jamotte**

Philippe is planning a west-about solo non-stop circumnavigation in a Class40 sailboat, a feat which would be the first to be completed from the West Coast of the Americas. He won the 2018 Singlehanded Transpacific Yacht Race, and that experience spurred him to pursue this challenge. He is fully self-funded with very minimal in-kind sponsorship. His plan is well thought out and ambitious and merits our support. [pjsails.com](http://pjsails.com)

The subcommittee recommended awarding Philippe a grant towards the cost of a trade wind workhorse spinnaker.

### **Dustin Reynolds**

Many of you are familiar with Dustin, a double amputee preparing to complete his six-year solo circumnavigation. Dustin is an OCC member who has overcome incredible challenges to get where he is today. Although he does have visiting crew from time to time, he always backtracks to his starting point to make sure every mile sailed has been logged by himself

alone. To date, he has visited over 30 countries and covered 25,000+ miles at sea. He has received minimal in-kind sponsorship. [www.thesinglehandedsailor.com](http://www.thesinglehandedsailor.com).

The subcommittee voted to recommend awarding Dustin a grant to cover the Panama Canal fees as well as the Galapagos clearance and agent fees.

### **Greg Landreth and Keri Pashuk**

Keri and Greg have 30 years of sailing experience, mostly undertaking “adventurous” sailing expeditions to the Antarctic Peninsula. They describe their voyages as having been “extreme adventure for its own sake,” but in the past decade they have pivoted to conservation science in an effort to contribute to the preservation of the extreme environments in which they have done most of their sailing.

They are currently undertaking research in the Golfo de Penas on baleen whales. They have requested a grant towards the purchase of a Torqeedo Cruise 10TS engine for a new dinghy currently under construction. They hope that by pioneering the use of this engine they can minimize their noise pollution as well as influence the next generation of sailors to make use of this electric technology by sharing their experiences. [www.patagoniaprojects.org](http://www.patagoniaprojects.org).

Commodore Simon Currin concluded, “It is an honour to recognise and support three projects by sailors renowned for their adventurous and/or environmentally sound endeavours. We look forward to following your endeavours over the coming year.”

To learn more about the OCC Conservation and Adventure Challenge Grants, visit the OCC website <https://news.oceancruisingclub.org/Challenge-Grant>.

## **About the Ocean Cruising Club**



### ***The Worldwide Community for Adventure Sailing Since 1954***

The OCC is the “home port” for those who have sailed long distances across big oceans. With 45 nationalities represented among more than 3100 members, and Port Officers around the world, we have a more diverse membership and a more international reach than any other blue water sailing organisation.

The Ocean Cruising Club exists to encourage long-distance sailing in small boats. A Full Member of the OCC must have completed a qualifying voyage of a non-stop port-to-port ocean passage, where the distance between the two ports is not less than 1,000 nautical miles, in a vessel of not more than 70ft (21.36m) LOA; associate members are committed to achieving that goal. This standard distinguishes the OCC from all other sailing clubs.

Our membership as a whole has more experience offshore than any other sailing organisation – in the number of circumnavigators, in the range of extraordinary voyages members have completed, and in the number of solo sailors and female sailors among our ranks. This is what sets us apart from other organisations, even as it draws us together as a group.

Web: [www.oceancruisingclub.org](http://www.oceancruisingclub.org)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OceanCruisingClub/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/oceancruisingclub/>

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