



Did We Succeed?



By Rich Wilson
aboard *Great American II*



May 26, 2003—When we departed Hong Kong aboard *Great American II*, our goals were three: to bring the ship and crew home safely to port; to fulfill the commitments we made to our school programs; and to look at our time upon arrival in New York to see if we had posted a faster time than *Sea Witch*.

Still 200 miles out of New York as I write, we have yet another low pressure system and cold front to negotiate, and then it will be upwind for the home stretch. Aeolus and King Neptune will have their way! Yet presuming the home stretch goes well, has this been a successful passage?

Prematurely, yes. Both Rich and I are healthy, and *Great*

American II has stood up well to the elements. We have maintained the ship systems well enough during the voyage so that we are coming to port after 15,000 ocean-going miles with all systems functioning. Of that we are proud.

We have delivered all of the logs, essays, journals, Q&As, audio files, photos, and video clips promised. Completing these tasks is challenging in the environment of the sea, and we count our performance as successful there as well.

We think that we will get to New York before *Sea Witch's* time, but even if we don't, we will have achieved two of our three goals. That will make the voyage from Hong Kong

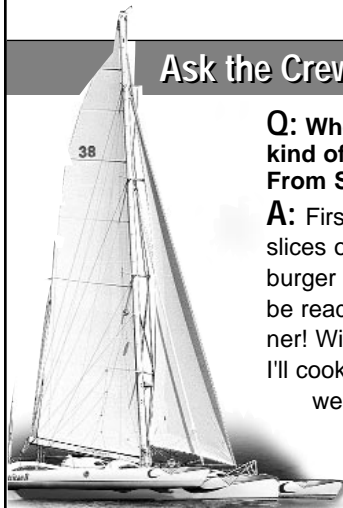
to New York a success. For success is not just a record time, it is the manner in which a project is done. The old adage "it's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game" is true in my mind. And we will be proud of this voyage upon its completion.



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1. What were Rich Wilson's three voyage goals?
2. How many miles did *Great American II* sail during the voyage?
3. Do you think the voyage was a success? Why?

Ask the Crew of *Great American II*



Q: When you get back on land, what kind of food will you eat first?
From Simone, New York, USA

A: First I'll stop at the pizzeria for a few slices of pizza. Then I'll stop for a cheeseburger and an ice cream cone. Then I'll be ready for my wife's best meatloaf dinner! Within a few weeks of getting home, I'll cook some of the freeze dried foods we ate on the boat so that my family can do a taste test!

—answered by Rich du Moulin



Have students prepare a Special Edition newspaper to celebrate the completion of the *GAIT's* journey and their own work. The Special Edition should include a front page, feature articles, editorials and cartoons, and challenges (math problems, puzzles, trivia questions, etc.).

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