

About Noël Marshall...

Noël Marshall, an accomplished circumnavigator, is a member of the Royal Cruising Club, Ocean Cruising Club and SSCA.

After an illustrious 36-year career in the British Diplomatic Service, where he served in Pakistan, Moscow and Strasburg, and 15 years of ocean racing, Noël retired in 1993 and began cruising aboard his first boat, *Sadko*, a Hallberg-Rassy 38. In 1997 he was awarded the Royal Cruising Club Challenge Cup for his four-year circumnavigation, which included visits to Japan and the Russian Far East. The second *Sadko II*, a custom 42 foot aluminum cutter designed by Mike Pocock, was launched in 2002 and made her maiden cruise to the White Sea to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the “discovery” of Russia by Sir Richard Chancellor in 1553. In 2004 Noël crossed the Atlantic where he then cruised up the North American coast and as far as Disko Island in Greenland before returning to the Chesapeake. Over the following two years he continued via the Bahamas to Panama and thence to the Galapagos Islands, single-handed to southern Chile and, with a relay of crews, through the Chilean channels to Cape Horn, and thereafter up to Buenos Aires. This skein of cruises was awarded three more trophies by the RCC.

For the 2006-2007 southern season, Noël returned single-handed to the Beagle Channel and then, with a full crew, spent six weeks visiting the Antarctic Peninsula. They reached Detaile island, 20-odd miles south of the Antarctic Circle, and concluded with a landing on Elephant Island, taking with them a bronze plaque honoring the members of Sir Ernest Shackleton’s expedition who survived there in 1916 one of whom, James Wordie, had been the Master of his college when Noël was at Cambridge. This was, beyond doubt, the “cruise of a lifetime,” and one for which the Royal Cruising Club awarded Noël both the Challenge Cup for 2007 and the Goldsmith Exploration Award.

In 2008, Noel was awarded the prestigious SSCA Seven Seas Award. This award signifies the highest international recognition of a cruising sailor whose experiences on the sea demonstrate a deep commitment to good seamanship and an understanding of his ship and the environment.

Noël died on August 16, 2008.