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# CURRENTS

News and notes from around the yachting world / BY DANIEL HARDING JR.



## SET SAIL FOR HEALING

Cancer patients leave their pain on the dock thanks to Sailing Heals.

Raindrops descend to the deck from low gray clouds while sails flap to and fro, begging for wind. It is a tough day for sailing, a fact that the guests aboard the 72-foot schooner *Madeleine* don't seem to notice. Some passengers roam the deck excitedly snapping cellphone pictures, while others are content just to sit and watch the shore pass by. If not for the shaved heads underneath strategically placed ball caps, you would never know that this group of eager new sailors is battling cancer. One guest, Wanda Howard, sits on the companionway hatch with a smile stretching from ear to ear. "Four years ago I didn't live life to the fullest," she says softly

while glancing around the boat. "Now that I have stage-four cancer, I appreciate things like this so much more."

Howard was just one of a half-dozen cancer victims on the water that day this past fall, courtesy of the Massachusetts-based charity Sailing Heals. With the help of founding sponsor Panerai, Sailing Heals has taken nearly 600 cancer patients and caregivers sailing in the hope of providing an escape, however brief, from their pain. Smiles only faded when *Madeleine* returned to her Newport, Rhode Island, slip. There was still no wind to speak of and drizzle continued to fall, but it *was* a great day for sailing. [sailingheals.org](http://sailingheals.org)



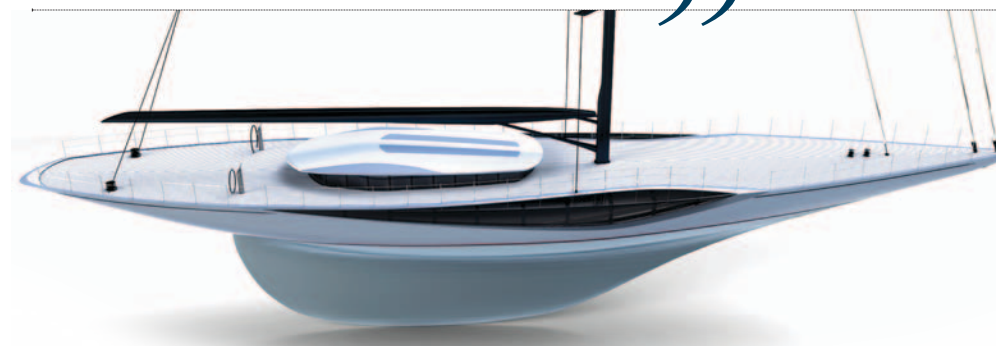
**Ditch the Duck** Model ships are nothing new, but custom-built floating yacht toys? Now we're listening. Bespoke Impact specializes in creating bathtub-friendly yachts (replicas of yours or someone else's). Starting at \$12,000, these mini yachts are perhaps the most expensive bath toy on the market, but they are seriously cooler than your standard rubber duck. Options include clear windows, metal deck fittings, furniture, helicopters and more. [bespoke-impact.com](http://bespoke-impact.com)



**Uncharted Art**

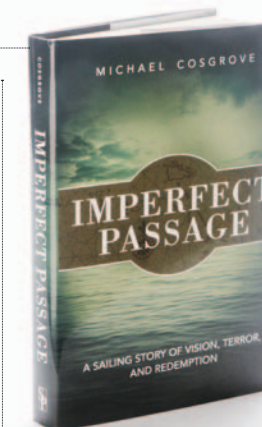
The best charts aren't always electronic; hanging a nautical chart is an easy way to spice up the decor aboard your yacht or home. Uniquely Nautical makes one-of-a-kind 3-D nautical charts that are sure to have your guests talking. Whether your boating playground is a pond or the Pacific Ocean, it can be etched into a decorative piece of wood. Various levels of incisions on the artwork provide a depth to the display. Further personalization comes in the ability to have a picture of your home, boat or even some of your favorite watering holes carved into the map. Text can also be added to the chart to commemorate a special occasion, making this an item you'll want to pass on to future generations. See a video of how these 3-D charts are made at [yachtingmagazine.com/dec2013](http://yachtingmagazine.com/dec2013). [uniquelynautical.com](http://uniquelynautical.com)

“ People said it was impossible to change China, but the evidence we are now getting says consumption of shark fin soup in China is down by 50 to 70 percent in the last two years. It is a myth that people in Asia don't care about wildlife. Consumption is based on ignorance rather than malice. — Peter Knights, executive director of WildAid, in an interview with The Washington Post ”



**Not Your Father's J Class**

A renaissance can be defined as a revival of intellectual or artistic achievement and vigor. By that definition, *Renaissance of the J Class*, a modern redesign of the fabled sailing class from the 1930s by British designer George Wolstenholme, is appropriately named. Under the shade of a towering carbon-fiber mast is a simple yet spacious top deck intended for the easy movement of large crews and even bigger sails. A generously sized glass house amidships is both an exterior focal point and interior centerpiece. Thanks to oversize hull windows, the upper salon is inundated with natural light, adding to the sense of spaciousness belowdecks and improving the interior/exterior continuity of the craft. Light fabrics, wall cladding, mirrors and reflective surfaces also enhance this design (interior renderings are at [yachtingmagazine.com/dec2013](http://yachtingmagazine.com/dec2013)). Only time will tell if this *Renaissance* will last, but we are excited to see this concept brought to life someday. [gnwdesigns.co.uk](http://gnwdesigns.co.uk)



**Salty Sea Story**

At 60 years old, Michael Cosgrove, a leisurely day sailor, was in good health, had a happy family and enjoyed a thriving business, but something was missing. That something, he reasoned, was a legacy. Against conventional wisdom, he set out to sail around the world in what would be the adventure of a lifetime. His memoir, *Imperfect Passage* (\$24.95), is filled with everything you would want in a salty sea story: There are psychotic crew mates, tranquil tropical islands, severe storms and a run-in with the law. Filled with the good, the bad and the very ugly, Cosgrove's story is an honest tale that will resonate with all dreamers. [imperfectpassage.com](http://imperfectpassage.com)

**\$30,000,000**  
THE APPROXIMATE COST TO REPAINT RUSSIAN BILLIONAIRE ANDREY MELNICHENKO'S 390-FOOT SUPERYACHT, A. THE PREVIOUS PAINT JOB HAD "LINES AND SAGS" IN IT, MELNICHENKO SAYS.



**Fast and Furious**

Personal watercraft are supposed to be fast. Super Yacht Tenders and Toys takes that concept to a whole new extreme with its Black Edition PWC (\$27,068). It has a blistering top speed of 80 mph — and that's not the most impressive (or scariest) part. It goes from 0 to 80 mph in only three seconds. Design collaborator and eight-time personal watercraft racing world champion James Bushell admitted that it's probably too powerful for most people. "It practically pulls your arms off," he said. "This isn't one for the weak wristed." Each PWC comes with individual branding, lifting points for your davit, delivery and training. Bravery is not included. [superyachtendersandtoys.com](http://superyachtendersandtoys.com)