

**Personal Medevac Experience
Clipper Round the World Race
2011/12**

MCA Maritime Health Seminar

Dr Jane Hitchins

Tuesday 17th November 2015

Sir Robin Knox-Johnson 1968



Clipper RTW 2011/12



Pre-Race Start



Training

- On board – 4 x5 days
 - Evolutions
 - Team work
 - Safety procedures
- Shore based
 - Day skipper / yacht master theory
 - Sea safety
 - First aid
 - VHF
 - Radar



CLIPPER
ROUND THE WORLD
21-12

EDINBURGH

CLIPPER
ROUND THE WORLD
21-12

NEW YORK

CLIPPER
ROUND THE WORLD
21-12

QINGDAO

CLIPPER
ROUND THE WORLD
21-12

FINLAND

CLIPPER
ROUND THE WORLD
21-12

DERRY DOONDERRY

CLIPPER
ROUND THE WORLD
21-12

TURKISH LANCELOT



GBR

9355T

CLIPPER
ROUND THE
WORLD
11-12



GERALDTON
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

xerox



ROTARY

www.ClipperRoundTheWorld.com

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11-12

Life at 45 degrees – racing 24/7



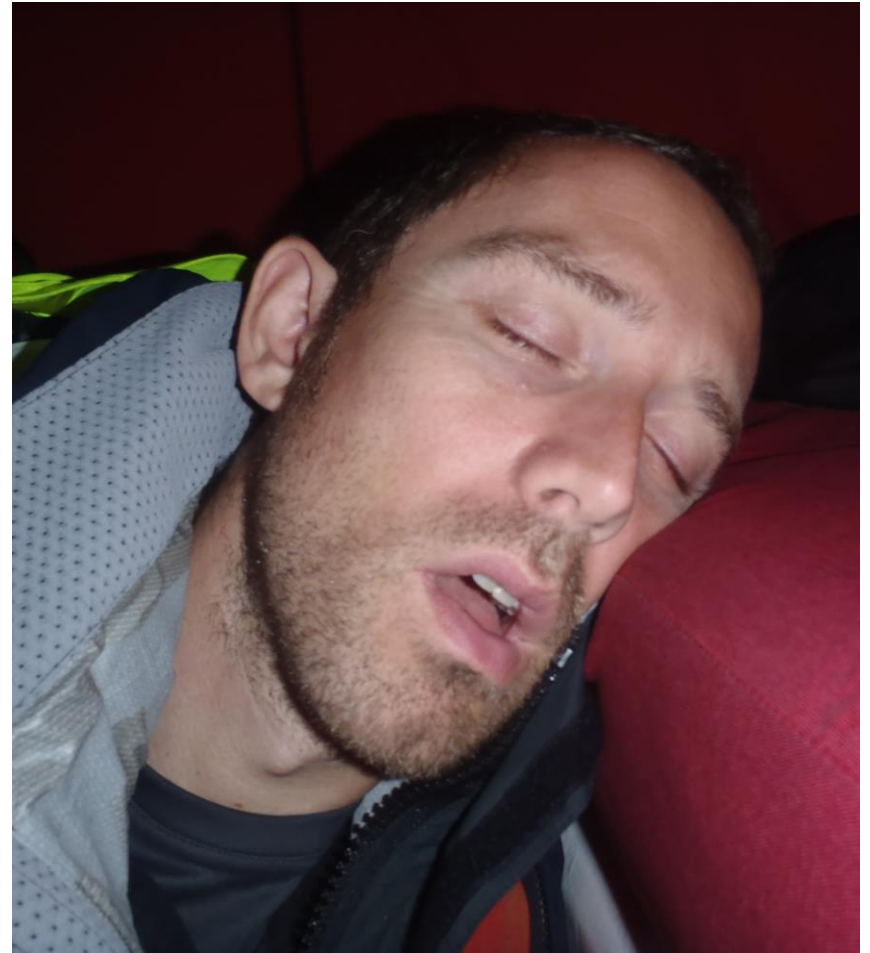


Pollywogs to shellbacks





Exhaustion



Pacific - Day 29

March 31st 2012 05.10

- 400 miles from San Francisco
- 3rd depression in quick succession
- 984mB
- 70 knot winds from starboard rear quarter
- Mainsail 3rd reef
- Pooped by 100 foot wave
- 4 of 5 on deck injured

Damage

- Helm flattened
- Reefing lines blown
- Nik – crush to pelvis from binnacle
- Mark – trapped in helm, back strain
- Max – thrown against coffee grinder, rib injury
- Me – rib and vertebral fractures, pneumothorax & ruptured spleen

The Boat comes first.....

- Off watch back on deck
- Risk of capsizing if broadsided
- Emergency tiller & engine
- Casualties below deck
- Make emergency contact by satellite phone (EPIRB lost)
-drop sail

Medevac

- Plane HC130 Hercules – 10 hours
- Unable to drop jumper to assess casualties
- Dropped supplies including oxygen and remote monitoring equipment

The Drop



Medevac

- 'Is she stable?'
- US Coastguard Cutter Bertholf
- 36 hours post incident
- Plan drop swimmer then helicopter airlift
-from the water?

Medevac

- Swimmer not possible
- Conditions still not safe for helicopter airlift from yacht
- Clinical risk of airlift in dry suit from water
- Boat to boat transfer decided
- To RHIB then davit lift onto Cutter

The Medevac



USCG Bertholf



- Arrived Highlands Hospital, Oakland 60 hours post incident
- 7 fractured ribs
- Left pneumothorax
- Ruptured spleen – secondary bleed
- 4 fractured TP lumbar vertebrae
- Hospitalised 2 weeks, ITU 5 days
- Flight home 6.5.12

GWA arrives – 12 hours later



Dreams....



.....realised



Crossing the line July 22nd 2012



Circumnavigation!



Thank you

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