

Conor & Lydia's Engagement: West Coast of Vancouver Island aboard "Kipper Kite"

Greg and Conor Hamilton took their first learn and cruise from SJS and instructor Art Reed in June of 1998, beginning a tradition of annual (at least) sailing trips by father, son & friends. In 2000 they added their Coastal Navigation and Advanced Coastal Cruising certificates during a Learn and Cruise to Desolation Sound with instructor Zach Glazar.



Greg chartered the Beneteau 42 "Kipper Kite" for a total of 11 weeks during 2004-2008. He liked her so well that he contacted (through SJS) Dave and Judy Spencer, the owners of "Kipper Kite", to see if he could take her down the challenging west coast of Vancouver Island. Dave and Greg met for a brisk December sail to plan the trip and in May 2007, Dave and Judy took Kipper Kite up the east side of Vancouver Island to the North tip, Port Hardy, to meet Greg and crew. From there Greg and his crew began their great adventure down the west coast of Vancouver Island. Since then, the

relationship between the Spencers and the Hamiltons has flourished into additional winter sails and sailing lessons for Greg's crew and friends (Dave is an ASA certified instructor). In 2008 Dave will even join Greg's crew for a week sail on Kipper Kite to Desolation Sound. Aren't sailing relationships great!

Speaking of sailing and



relationships.... Greg's son Conor will be marrying Lydia Anderson this year and "Kipper Kite" was there for the engagement! Back in 2005 when Conor and Lydia were first dating, Conor invited Lydia on the "Kipper Kite" sailing trip out to Tofino and back. Though coming from a Sea Dory background, Lydia quickly became a committed sailor also.



Conor and Lydia were only able to be aboard "Kipper Kite" for one week of the 2007 cruise down the west coast of Vancouver Island, so they chose to sail from Port Hardy to Peddler's Cove (you won't see it on the charts - it is labeled Columbia Cove). That allowed Greg and longtime crewmember, Mike Gilmore, to have experienced sailing help when rounding Cape Scott and Brooks Peninsula. Deciding that he could think of no more

memorable place to propose to Lydia than on this sailing trip, Conor proposed on the beach at Klaskino Anchorage (just north of Brooks Peninsula) after a beach dinner of fresh fish and chips. Lydia accepted and they celebrated with a bottle of champagne that Kipper Kite owners (Dave and Judy were "in" on the secret plan and will also be attending the wedding) had hid on board for the occasion. Flying back home on Saturday morning, Conor and Lydia were sorry to have leave such beautiful country and such a wonderful sailing trip, but glad to be back in cell phone range for Lydia to let all her family and friends know she was going to be a bride!

