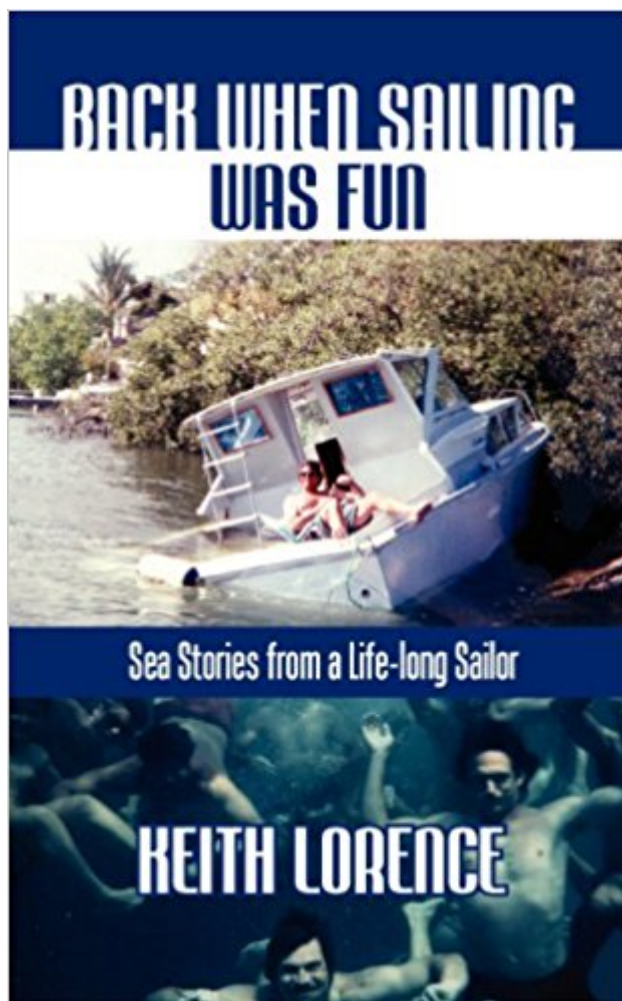


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Back When Sailing Was Fun - Sea Stories From A Life-long Sailor



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Customer Reviews

"August, 4 miles off Hyannis in a 30' Schooner"Ready to try steering for a while?' he said after a time."Sure Grandpa.""Come around over here. I'll stand behind you to guide you."Ethan stood and moved across the canting cockpit to join Grandpa at the wheel. When he had it in his grip, Grandpa let go and stepped back. Just then a bigger wave hit the boat and in the sudden lurch Grandpa lost his balance and tilted back, falling, and was pitched backward off the boat.In horror Ethan let go of the wheel and turned around. Grandpa was in the water some 20 feet back already. "Throw me a cushion!" he shouted."This is an excerpt of one of many true stories in Tom Lochhaas' new book, Suddenly Overboard, which will be published in May 2013. Lochhaas was prompted to collect and document these stories after anecdotally learning of the drowning deaths of several sailors in New England that never made the press. As he looked deeper into USCG accident reports, Lochhaas was shocked to find the underreported statistics of boating and sailing fatalities in the US and abroad. Here are a few from his book:An average of 700 boating fatalities occur every year and 83% of the sailing related cases are from drowning, according to the US Coast Guard. 89% of the drowned victims weren't wearing life jackets. At the time of death, only 50% of the sailors were actually sailing, some were docking, motoring around the harbor, at anchor, swimming, etc. In about 40% of the cases, "sailors drowned with the boat still upright and usually nearby after unexpectedly, for a variety of reasons, ending up in the water.

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