

MARINE SERVICENTER

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Marine Servicenter's President Jim Rard Partners with Karl Kruger of Kruger Escapes to Provide Two Sail Alaska Flotillas for 2020

Serving Northwest Boaters Since 1977

ANACORTES, January 3rd, 2020 –Marine Servicenter announced today a partnership for Sail Alaska between Marine Servicenter's president Jim Rard and Captain Karl Kruger from Pacific Northwest's Kruger Escapes. Sail Alaska is a 2,500 mile, 12-week cruising educational program, going on its 10th year.

Rard says, "2020 Will be my 20th trip to Southeast Alaska, and I have only seen a small portion of this amazing part of our planet. The best quote I have heard was from 12-year old Molly and Jessie. After a year in the South Pacific they were sharing photos and memories with new friends from around the world, all commenting on how beautiful the islands were. After three trips to Alaska and 2 years in the South Pacific, they both said, "But you should see Alaska!" Now with Karl joining in, I can't wait to see what new element he will bring."

Kruger is an experienced Pacific Northwest captain who holds a United States Coast Guard 100 Ton Master's License with sail and tow endorsements. He has cruised the west coast for the last 30 years, from Alaska to the San Juan Islands and Canadian Gulf Islands for pleasure as well as for sailing charters. An avid outdoorsman, Kruger has extensive experience as an alpine climber, sailor, skier, surfer, and charter captain. Most notably, Kruger is recognized as the first person to paddle the 750 mile Race to Alaska (R2AK) course on a stand up paddleboard, completing the race in 2017.

"There are only a handful of cruising grounds on the planet that are more wild and unique than Alaska. It is one of the most varied coastlines in the world. I couldn't be happier to sail and share this coastline with the participants of Sail Alaska." -Karl Kruger

Sail Alaska welcomes boaters of all levels of experience with both sail and power. The trip is designed to give both captain and crew a taste of long-distance cruising and the basics of self-sufficiency in a very real environment. Participants will be surrounded by like-minded people to share with and learn from. Historically, Sail Alaska flotillas would encompass 10 -12 boats, including Rard's 49' Jeanneau, named "Ruby Slippers," as the lead boat. Kruger's 2020 Sail Alaska flotilla will be lead by "Ocean Watch," a 64' Bruce Roberts steel cutter.

With limited room for additional boats, Sail Alaska has had many hopeful participants on waitlists, sometimes two years out, but with the addition of a second 2020 flotilla, lead by Kruger, Marine Servicenter hopes to provide boaters with the opportunity to participate without having to wait so long. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to pick which flotilla best fits their time frame, as Kruger's Sail Alaska flotilla is scheduled to leave two weeks earlier than Rard's. Rard, crew & "Ruby Slippers," participates in the Pacific Northwest Jeanneau Owners Rendezvous. This event is annually hosted by Marine Servicenter and Jeanneau America. Rard's flotilla sails-off from Anacortes, WA on the last morning of the Jeanneau rendezvous.

Notes to editors:

- For more information on Marine Servicenter, Jim Rard and Sail Alaska, please visit: <https://marinesc.com/sail-alaska/>

- For more information on Karl Kruger, please visit: <https://www.karlsrugerofficial.com/>

SOURCE Marine Servicenter

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