



Matt Rutherford to Kick off Ocean Research Trip from Strictly Sail Pacific

Veteran sailor teams up with Ocean Research Project, scientist Nicole Trenholm and W.D. Schock for a trans-Pacific sailing trip to research ocean plastics pollution

Warren, RI—April 1, 2014—Strictly Sail Pacific (www.strictlysailpacific.com), the West Coast's largest all-sail boat show set for April 10–13, in Oakland, Calif, today announced that show organizers are honored to be hosting veteran sailor Matt Rutherford as he prepares to launch a California-to-Japan research expedition focusing on plastic debris in the Pacific Ocean.

Starting out on April 13 from Jack London Square, Oakland, Matt will be sailing 6,500 miles non-stop from California to Fukuoka, Japan with scientist Nicole Trenholm on a W.D. Schock Harbor 29. Matt and Nicole will be conducting research along the entire route using a high speed trawl net, which they'll use to generate a dataset to add to global understanding of how much plastics debris is on the ocean's surface, threatening marine life and human health.

Samples will be analyzed for persistent organic pollutants such as PCBs and pesticides through University of Tokyo's International Pellet Watch Program. Matt and Nicole will film the expedition for a marine plastics documentary that will be released in 2015.

At Strictly Sail Pacific, Matt will conduct a free seminar on April 10 at 4:45 pm at the Jack London Market Building, Exhibit Hall C. On April 12, he will speak at 11:45 am in Exhibit Hall D. For show attendees who would like to meet him in person, he will also appear at the W.D. Schock tent.

Strictly Sail Pacific will feature hundreds of sailboats, as well as gear, accessories and hardware. Boats of every size will be on display, including high-end yachts, multihulls, sleek racers and daysailers. The event will also include daily seminars, interactive workshops, free sailboats rides and on-the-water training classes. Strictly Sail Pacific is operated by Sail America, the trade association for the U.S. sailing industry.

Hours for Strictly Sail Pacific are Thursday, April 10th: 10am–6pm; Friday, April 11th: 10am–6pm; Saturday, April 12th: 10am–7pm; and Sunday, April 13th: 10am–5pm.

To learn more about Strictly Sail Pacific or to [purchase tickets online](#), visit strictlysailpacific.com. Find Strictly Sail Pacific on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StrictlySailPacific> and on Twitter @StrictlySailPac.

About Sail America

Sail America is the trade association for the U.S. sailing industry and plays a vital role for all companies that are involved in providing sailing-related products and services. Established in 1990 by members of the U.S. sailing industry, Sail America now has over 200 members representing all segments of the sailing market. With a professional staff, a dedicated Board of Directors, and a team of volunteers and supporters, Sail America works hard to promote the health and growth of sailing. For more information about Sail America, visit www.sailamerica.com.



About Matt Rutherford

Matt Rutherford was the first person to complete a non-stop, single-handed, voyage around North and South America. During the first leg of his trek, Rutherford broke a record by singlehandedly sailing the smallest boat in history through the Northwest Passage. Once through this northern passage, Rutherford sailed down and around storm-tossed Cape Horn and completing his record breaking journey in 309 days after sailing 27,077 miles at sea. To learn more about the Ocean Research Project, visit www.oceanresearchproject.org.

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