



foto: Szabó Géza (Rotorman)

Small ship, great adventure

Aron Meder sailed around the World in his 6-meter sailboat.

Carina (39 years old) and Aron (29) called in 40 countries, sailed 30,000 nautical miles (55,000 km) over three oceans and a dozen seas.

Aron Méder is expected to return to **Koper** harbor on **September 19, 2009**, around 1400 hours, from where he departed on his Round the World voyage on September 24, 2006 in his 6-meter (19-foot) sailboat **CARINA**.

Highlander **József Poór** will hand over to Aron, and later to the public, their jointly written book: “**A kicsik is útra kelnek**” (The small ones also get under way).

Reporters of the Media, and those who wish to make live videos or photos of Aron’s arrival and interview him, are expected at **Marina Koper**.

József Gál and **Attila Frigyer** will meet Aron at sea in proper style on board J.G.’s Round the World sailboat **Equator**.

Many fellow compatriots are expected to be present: relatives and friends, also numerous Internet acquaintances signaled their intention to participate, even a reporter from Paris, among others...

Further information (log, pictures, videos): meder.hu

Prior to Aron’s arrival any questions and requests should be addressed to his father: István Méder, istvan@meder.hu , 06-30-251-0649 (SMS better around arrival time)

“Why?”

(Aron’s usual answer: “*Because I like sailing*”, sometimes adding: “*To discover myself better*”).

The ship

Carina was built in 1970, in Switzerland. Weight: 1.1 tons, length 6m, draft 1m, beam 2.19m. It was retired in 1996, stored in a yard in Csepel (*island in the middle of the Danube above Budapest/tr*) for 8 years. Aron bought it in 2004 and it had to be completely refurbished.

“It had the shape of a sturdy vessel. Saw her and fell in love ...”

It took 1.5 years to finish the renewal with the help of his father, in his grandfather’s yard. The original mast, mountings, sails and much of the original furnishings were kept.

Ocean crossings are usually attempted in much larger yachts, but a mini-yacht trend also exists. The length, freeboard and other parameters of those boats corresponds to high seas requirements. Perhaps the smallest European yacht that sailed around the World.

Aron looks at the low freeboard of his ship philosophically:

“I can caress the sea while steering. That’s more than physical closeness...”

The gear

Because of lack of funds, only the cheapest, absolute necessities were installed. There was no wind-vane steering, radar, satellite phone. Too few batteries, too few charts, no seagoing clothes. Connection with home was via a 20 year old HF radio, (manual antenna tuner, home-made antenna). Perhaps, this old radio withstood the tolling best: Made 1,600 connections with 120 radio amateurs in 17 countries.

*“Thanks to the **Hungarian Circle** around the World”.*

The route

Mediterranean: Slovenia – Italy – Tunisia – Spain – Gibraltar

Atlantic Ocean: Morocco – Canari Islands – Cape Verde Islands

Caribbean: Barbados – Martinique – St. Lucia – St. Vincent – Bequia – Grenadines – Grenada

Central- and South America: Testigos – Tortugas (Venezuela) – Bonair (Netherlands) – Antilles – Colombia – Panama (the smallest ship to transit the Canal)

Pacific Ocean: Galapagos – Marqueses – Tahiti – Moorea – Rarotonga – Tonga – Fiji (here he spent 7 months to sit out the hurricane season, while visited the Fiji waters and New Zealand in other ships) – Vanuatu – Papua New Guinea – Thursday Island – Torres Strait

India Ocean: Australia (Darwin) – Indonesia (Bali) – Singapore – Malaysia – Thailand – Sri Lanka – Maldiv Islands – Oman – Yemen

Red Sea: Eritrea – Sudan – Egypt – Suez Canal

Mediterranean: Greece

Adriatic: Italy – Croatia - Slovenia

Memorable experiences:

Aron recaps his adventures as follows:

Atlantic crossing: Cape Verde Is. – Barbados (2,100 nautical miles), 39 days sailing, without auto pilot from the beginning (later the boom came loose as well)

Panama Canal: the smallest yacht ever to transit officially. There were six people in the ship, of those 5 slept in it (though 2 moved over to a buoy later) “*it was a great achievement when the motor quit and the linehandlers rowed very hard for 15 minutes to the nearest buoy...*” (you must not use sails in the Canal)

Longer passages in the Pacific Ocean:

Panama – Galapagos (900 nm), 40 day non-stop sailing with many calms and counter currents.

Galapagos – French Polynesia (3,100 nm), 52 days of non-stop sailing

Fiji: during the 7 months I spent here, refurbished Carina, did smaller jobs on other ships also ship-transfers. This is how I got to New Zealand as crew in an old wooden fishing boat, which even caught fire during the voyage...

Returned to Fiji as crewmember in a larger yacht. Its captain was a meditation teacher, so we spent many hours meditating during the few weeks in the marina and the 10 days of sail.

Of the many places I visited, the most interesting to me were the isolated villages in the jungles of Papua New Guinea, and the small villages in the Pacific Ocean and Indonesia.

Diving in the Maldives and the Red Sea.





