

BEHIND THE HANGAR DOORS

Indiana Jones. James Bond. Captain Kirk. These are the stories we grew up with, but not all of us were brave enough to follow. Bucket lists aren't one-size-fits-all, but they are something that many people aspire to. For this KPWT pilot, growing, learning, and experiencing is the perfect way to sum up his life goal. From starting and selling his own software business to tackling some of the world's toughest missions, Harry Anderson is always ready for his next adventure.

MEET HARRY ANDERSON

Harry has lived a varied life across the globe, chasing "ambitious adventures". In 1985 he started his own software company using his various degrees of electrical engineering, of which he has a doctorate for. In 2000 this company sold, granting him the freedom and means to embrace life. The accomplishment he garnered by creating a successful business propelled the thought of what was coming next. One may think that leading such a colorful life would be difficult, but Harry is here to say otherwise... In fact, he believes it is "interesting that people think it would be challenging," saying that he's just a goal-oriented person. With this mindset, Harry became one of the few to fly solo to all seven continents and is now recreating that same adventure on his sailboat.



Harry and plane in their hangar.

Beyond his immense accomplishments thus far, he has a unique sense of what it means to live life to the fullest. Harry has lived across the United States, from Oregon to Illinois and is now settled comfortably on Bainbridge Island. Moreover, he's spent considerable time in France - and surprisingly, still believes the Pacific Northwest is better!

CONQUERING THE SKIES (AND SEA!)

At the age of 48, Harry decided it was time to try something new. This came after he dedicated himself to learning one new thing every year, this time in earning his private pilot's license. 2010 came the purchase of his now famous plane, chosen for its range; a must for someone seeking to fly solo to all seven continents. It's also uniquely equipped with a backseat, which he typically uses to hold his extra fuel on long flights.

Harry believes he is one of only five people to have flown solo to Antarctica and may be the first to both fly and sail solo to all seven continents. While he doesn't claim to love flying, he does view it as a "capability accomplished". This capability has granted him experiences that few can rival and

stories to fill a lifetime twice over. Such vast experiences come with many questions for onlookers,



Harry's plane in Antarctica; 2014.

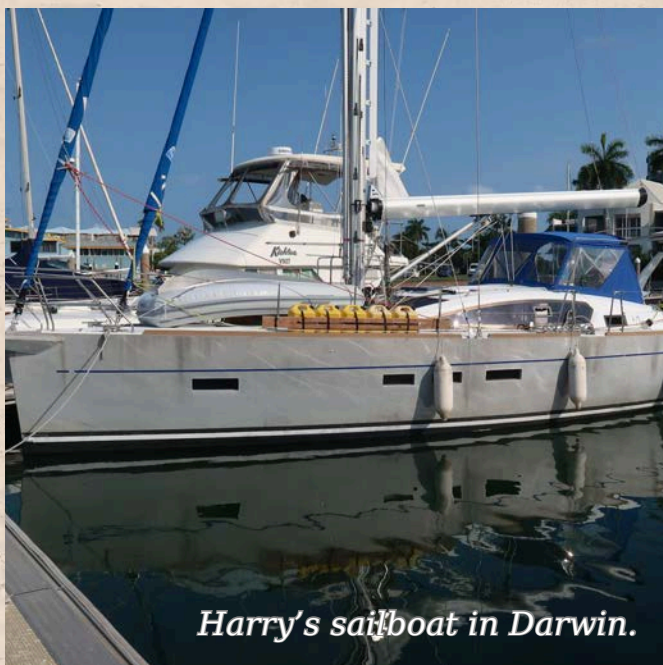
like how one even plans a trip to the two most inhospitable sides of the Earth. Apparently, though, it's typically as easy as making a few phone calls!

His journey to the North Pole is noted as one of his largest accomplishments, done in one stretch over roughly 10.5 hours. Moreover, on the other side of the globe, Antarctica ranks high on the list of difficulties, but particularly those that come by sea...

For a man like Harry, flying solo around the world isn't enough. He's now over halfway through his current undertaking, having been to 5 continents while

sailing solo around the world. He reflects on the parallels between flying and sailing, while also noting their vast differences. This new challenge began in 2020 with a boat built in France, complete with the aluminum hull that French sailboats are known for.

On his voyage to Antarctica, Harry faced assorted equipment failures, including 20-foot waves and freezing temperatures. Harry allows that sailing is already incrementally harder physically than flying, and in poor conditions and long journeys, these difficulties have a chance of coming to a head. His longest stretch thus far has been from Southern Chile to French Polynesia, coming in at roughly 5,500 nautical miles over 45 days.



Harry's sailboat in Darwin.

In both flying and sailing solo around the world, an easy question to ponder is how one doesn't get lonely. Harry feels that being so "focused on a particular objective" helps the most, but so does some of his



Stickers on Harry's plane.

recent improvements, such as adding Starlink to his sailboat. Furthermore, he's found great enjoyment from updating his blog (PhyWave) with his travels and tales - one of the main ways both his familiars and those following his story stay up to date. With his elusive accomplishments he also belongs to various clubs,

including the 'Ocean Cruising Club' that is reserved for those with 1000+ mile journeys under their belt.

MAKING THE LEAPS

Starting new adventures, hobbies, and commitments is a daunting task for most - in this case,



Harry in Yantai, China; 2019.

Harry can certainly be seen as the anomaly. Harry's advice? "Don't be afraid of the risk." He emphasizes that one must be deliberate in what you choose to take on, and because of that, he has never felt that he was at risk. Aside from flying and sailing to seven continents, he has also made it to 49 states, accredited to his own self-motivation. More than that, though, he views these leaps as an intellectual challenge. Taking the time to learn more, whether it be research on the task at hand or garnering advice from others before him, he sees an analytical side to everything. Harry never set out to be a pilot, but rather to master a "vehicle for adventure". He likely never realized he'd be sailing solo around the globe when he learned the skill growing up, but he still realized it as yet another

opportunity to explore. Consider the feats you would like to accomplish, and commit yourself to the ride. In Harry's words, "you can always overcome mistakes". (Remember, this is from someone who became stranded in China for a week when his aircraft got a flat tire - he knows what he's talking about!)

Harry believes in encouraging others in their dreams. Whether it be consulting and investing in new software businesses to speaking at EAA meetings, he has knowledge that he is ready to share. With EAA in particular, he most enjoys engaging with the kids and says that the pilot community should focus on "bringing in new blood". As a man who has the honor of belonging to many niche communities, he has been awarded the ability to truly see the unique value in each of them.

Upon completing his solo sail to our seven continents, what will be next for Harry Anderson? He's still pondering what endeavor could be his next road to adventure, but he's thinking of taking that a bit more literally this time by driving the road to the Arctic Ocean. In the meantime, we hope Harry's story may spark an adventure-seeking idea in you.

Published April 26, 2024

WANT TO BE FEATURED?

Erica Filler
Marketing & Communications

Contact me for all things Port of Bremerton! If you would like to be featured in a future edition, I would love to hear from you.

(360) 813-0813

ericaf@portofbremerton.org

