

MR. AND MRS. GUIDE

A couple of intrepid Bayliner owners comb the waters of the Pacific Northwest in search of adventure to write home about

James and Jennifer Hamilton, a husband-and-wife team of boating writers, recently took their love of time spent on the water to its logical conclusion: They sold their house in Seattle and moved aboard their boat.

It's been 10 years coming. James and Jennifer began exploring with their Bayliner 4087 when they bought it new in 1999, more than 4,000 engine hours ago. They keep their Bayliner docked at Bell Harbor Marina, located in the heart of downtown Seattle. "We ended up staying there for a month and then deciding, well, another month may be fun," James says. After a

few more months passed, they decided to say goodbye to their house and land-based habitation in general.

Both have boating in their blood. "Both of our families had boats," Jennifer says. "James' parents had several sailboats that they were fairly active on. And my parents, actually, their last boat was a Bayliner." The move wasn't just natural for the two, it was remarkably easy after a decade of comfortably cruising the Pacific Northwest aboard the Bayliner, which they call *Dirona*—named for a nudibranch found in the Puget Sound. "We're out on the boat a lot, anyway," she explains, "pretty much every weekend was our default. And the boat was well rigged up for almost living onboard. So not too many adjustments," she adds, pausing. "We added two more towel racks, I think," she laughs.

By now, you could name just about any place between Olympia and British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Sound, and the Hamiltons have been there. "As we started getting farther afield," James says of their earliest travels on *Dirona*, "we found what we really liked to do was go places that there wasn't much written about, and find out what was there and discover it." After 10 years of avid exploring, the Hamiltons' wanderlust for little-known destinations and sparsely documented cruising grounds has propelled them up and down the northern Pacific coast more times than they can count. "They're not written up in the guide books, or if they are, there's only a cursory mention of them," Jennifer says of their favorite spots. "We like to go in and explore the heck out of everything. Find old logging roads, small villages, things like that."

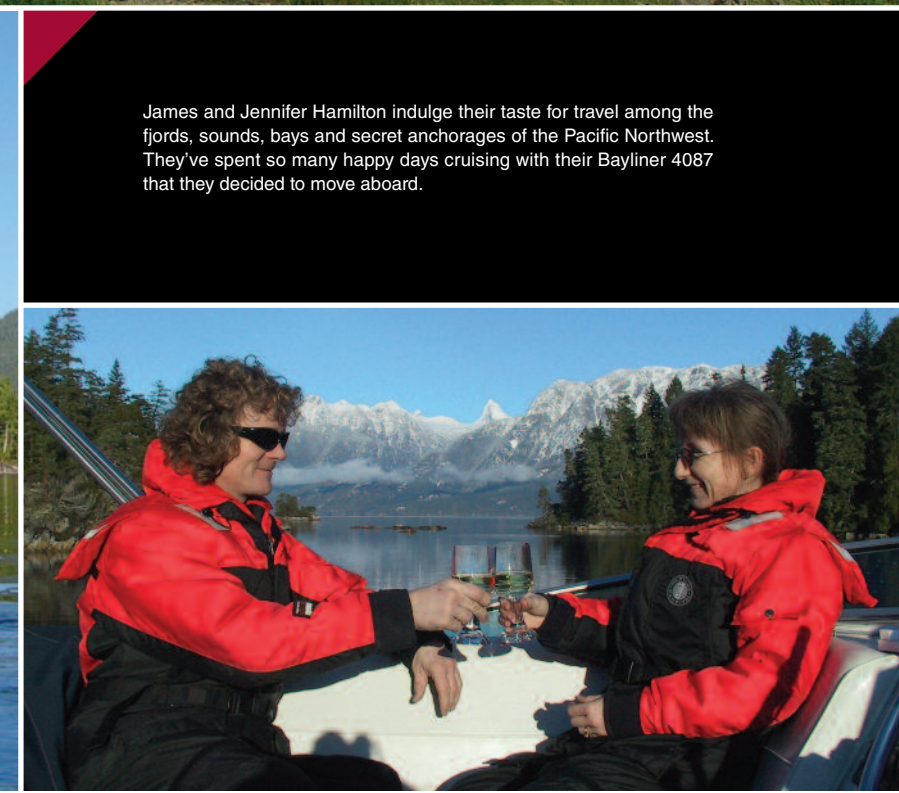
The Hamiltons documented their journeys in words and pictures, first for *Pacific Yachting* magazine and later for the well-known *Waggoner* series of cruising guides. "It gradually built up to a fair bit of material," James says of their writing and photography. They recently published a collection of their work, *Cruising the Secret Coast: Unexplored Anchorages on British Columbia's Inside Passage*.

In addition to magazine assignments, the Hamiltons maintain a website, www.mvdirona.com, that contains technical advice for boaters—James was formerly a professional auto mechanic—as well as field reporting. "What we find fun about it is that people find it," says James. Occasionally, they'll cross paths with people who have used the site's cruising resources to plan their own adventures. "One example: We were way, way north of Vancouver Island," James recalls. "Kayakers came over to our boat and said they had planned their trip using our website. It's so fun to hear of people using it!"

Like true adventurers, the Hamiltons are far from satisfied with what they've seen—and their ambitions are as large as the Pacific coast is long. "I'd love to go to Prince William Sound, in Alaska," James says. "I'm really interested in going to Dutch Harbor, which the Bering Sea fishing fleet calls its home." Jennifer has her sights on another direction: "Chile is very interesting to me. Beautiful cruising ground." She adds with a smile, "We have a lot of areas to cover."

"We love adventuring," James muses. "And however far we roam, we're always looking past the next corner, to the next possible place we can roam to." **17**

Want to Learn More?
To see more about the latest lineup of Bayliner Cruisers and their liveaboard amenities, turn to page 26 of the catalog section. Read about the Hamiltons' adventures aboard their Bayliner at www.mvdirona.com.



James and Jennifer Hamilton indulge their taste for travel among the fjords, sounds, bays and secret anchorages of the Pacific Northwest. They've spent so many happy days cruising with their Bayliner 4087 that they decided to move aboard.