Translated text from interview published in <u>Alandstidningen</u> in May 6, 2019. See <u>https://mvdirona.com/blog/content/binary/Alandstidningen\_20190504.pdf</u> for the full article in Swedish.

## Long-Time Travelers Make Landing in Aland

Jennifer and James Hamilton are out on a long-time journey through the world with their great powerboat. On Walpurgis Eve, they arrived in Mariehamn.

We often get tips on travel destinations from readers who follow our blog. There were several who pointed out that we should visit Aland when we found us nearby, says James Hamilton, when we see in the salon at Dirona. They have been told that Aland is beautiful and received a personal invitation to visit Aland's maritime safety center and test the exercise pool storm waves in survival suit.

- We have experienced so much exciting things thanks to this way of traveling. In Florida we got to board one nuclear submarine. I've got to run one mining truck large enough to carry the whole our boat. We have visited active volcanoes and get to know a lot nice people.

On their website www.mvdirona.com one can follow theirs route across the oceans. The boat, one 54 feet long Nordhavn 52, is great and safe enough to cross all waters.

- It's not that fast, though. It is stable and comfortable. Previously, they owned a Bayliner 4087. With it they diligently explored the waters around British Columbia, which resulted in the book "Cruising the Secret Coast: Unexplored Anchorages on British Columbia's Inside Passage." But nowadays it is the blog which concerns.

- We write about what we are experiencing. We cannot be paid by anyone choose our own topics, says Jennifer Hamilton. In 2012, they began their long ongoing travel around the world. They left home port in Seattle and headed for New Zealand and Australia.

- We had played with the idea before, but it was now we decided. Since then, they have been on traveling foot, with a few short interruptions per year when they travel home a few weeks to work. Right now they are focused on the waters around the Nordic region. Last year they explored Norway and the fjord landscape. This year it is Sweden's and the coast of Finland.

- We like to visit popular places off season so that it is calm and quiet. They have bikes with them on board for excursions to land. Among the many highlights there is the visit to the living volcano at Vanatu which erupted every 90 seconds, the Norwegian the fjords and diving experiences in New Zealand.

- Now we look forward to discovering Aland.