

## ON THE MAP Jennifer and James Hamilton

TEXT Aleksii Vienonen PHOTOS Aleksii Vienonen, mvdirona.com blog

# Saimaa surprised

JENNIFER AND JAMES HAMILTON LEAVE ON THE EASTERN US COAST DECEMBER. THEIR ARRIVAL TO ÅLAND AT THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER, TO THE ARCHIPELAGO SEA, HELSINKI AND SAIMAA. THE RUSSIAN MASTER'S MAGAZINE WENT RELATING TO A COUPLE IN LAPPEENRANA WHEN THEY WERE RETURNING BACK TO THE SAIMAN CANAL AND GOING TO STOCKHOLM.

**H** boating weblog. They are have sailed the world around the motorboat amiltonians are feeling-swallowed by MV Dirona.

Their journey is not brave-lously performance, the idea is to see as many men as possible interesting places around the world country and write about these blogs.

Their blog can follow the at mvdirona.com.

They are also difficult to reach, because they only know a day or two before, where to go and where arriving. This time an appointment however, it was easy. deliveries We noticed that Dirona was arrived in Saimaa. We sent a short one email and we were able to arrange-an interview with Lappeenranta Harbor Square. We didn't choose the boat Sorry to get to know it because it was anchored on the lake.

The blog is quite popular. popularity should explain that to Jennifer and James Hamilton implements many travel the boater's dream. They have taken let go of his working life, sold the house and a car, and dedicated neil over.

Unlike many parts of the world, forward sailor, Hamilton Motif vina seems to be more new looking for ports and places like sea. Sure, the ocean overhang

Are met here a lot makavia people.

Dirona at anchor Lake Saimaa.

it also involves adventure and surprises. sell friendliness.

- We enjoy the challenges. If any is difficult or if we know in advance- I make it hard to get somewhere, it only makes it attractive to us-televamman,"says Jennifer.

That is why Saimaa was selected for this traveling to one destination.

- We had planned in advance, that we are coming to the Baltic Sea and bay. But only for the Gulf of Finland after we got our blog readers started come suggestions that we should sail to Saimaa. Then when we read on the subject online, it felt fascinating idea. Partly attractive added that they had to go to Saimaa from the canal that passes through Russia, James says.

Length: 16.56 meters.

Draft: 2.11 meters.

Width: 7.42 meters.

Weight: 40.8 tons.

MV Dirona was completed in 2010 Nordhavn 52 motor boat.

The boat is of the American type The "trawler boat" or Trawler, which has seaworthiness and the standard of equipment for the oceans. Nordhavn 52 is the "stretched version" of Nordhavn 47.

Before moving to Saimaa, Hamiltons went to Russia from Helsinki on a cruise ship. Already on this mat-bureaucracy in crossing the border became familiar.

- The American flag behind the boat was the actual authority magnet, when we completed the frontier before the Saimaa Canal pumista. Never before did boats- we have been studied so thoroughly- ic spread. Russian border guards are investigating each boat compartment, hole and gap, James says.

Hamiltonians are used to formalities and strict controls

Jennifer and James Hamilton implements- their dreams and sailing the world all around motor boat.

but the Russians the mouth still surprised me.

- In Australia, boats are being examined closely because they are paranoid about alien species and prohibited living organisms supplies. We thought that nowhere else do we need a boat more thoroughly. We were wrong. The Russians were more specific, James says.

Although the Russian authorities were very accurate, they behaved like Hamiltons think professionally and in a polite way.

- They were official and curious, but nice, Jennifer says.

## SAIMAA WINS THE ÅLAND

The Hamiltonians are quite foreign, as Americans often do, critical no word from Finland or the Nordic countries can get out no matter how trying to ask the question.

Hamilton's Bad Travel Trial- these are mainly related to technology fraud. bone. They are overly positive, even be a prerequisite for the world around boating. All the obstacles are hi- I think it is meant to be crossed.

- It was a bit unfortunate when we started to take in water. We were about a thousand miles land from nearest beach. Was not other than trying to drift net. We searched for a leak and got it after it clogged. Then we went on a journey, Jennifer Hamilton says calmly.

They avoid unnecessary risk taking. - It's not meant to be a boat would take our lives. When we chose boat, we made the choice that it would be safe to cross the power-seas. The ship is quite slow, we walk about 8 knots speed. But yes even at speeds across the Atlantic. When take the opposite side of the on the other side of the ren and leaves Yes, before long to get there, James says.

Although they avoid risk taking, they are adventurous.

- No matter how prepared you are, the above- there will always be jobs. It's the adventure Jennifer says.

James says that especially Jennifer is excited about the challenges. Saimaa felt tempting just because of the destination it was a bit difficult to reach Russia because of border formalities.

- People were scared beforehand, that Finnish waters and Saimaa would be Difficult to navigate. But we are not noticed this. Although your water are shallow and crumbly, you have very good and accurate charts. We haven't noticed any of them error. Maps of the rest of the world are much less accurate.

Saimaa gets the Hamiltons boasting praise, and it doesn't seem to be just courtesy.

- It's great for us to find a place, which is hardly mentioned anywhere. We do not had never heard before or even read about Saimaa. This is nice place.

On their way they sailed to Saimaa from the mouth of the canal up from Lappeenranta

All the way to Kuopio, and then down to Lappeenranta, Finland. The blog's homepage has a map showing the boat's passage the route.

- We have met here

some nice people. We tend to also meet our blog readers mat-koillamme.

Saimaa is the opinion of the Hamiltonians have been their journey so far highlight.

- It's always fascinating to find a place, which is completely new to itself. We do not didn't know what to expect and we went completely to our blog readers after the tips. Travel experience, that you couldn't even anticipate, are the best,"says Jennifer Hamilton.

#### BACKGROUND TO IT

Both Jennifer and James Hamilton have made a career in the software industry. James Hamilton belongs to the Global Web shop for Amazon.com executives.

- We sold our house and our car.

We got a boat to sail across the sea. I haven't stopped working-koa, but I fly sometimes during the trip To work in the USA.

Hamiltonians have written boat-I also enjoy books and magazine articles.

However, they do not do telework the boat. Then the focus is on the mat-checkout, boat maintenance, and blog maintenance.

- We do so much for the boat ourselves maintenance as much as possible, James Hamilton says.

## Saimaa Channel

- The Saimaa Canal (Venezuelan Canal, Saimenski kanal) is the first time a canal that opened in 1856, this Lappeenranta river basin through Vyborg to the Gulf of Finland de-southeastern Finland and Russia on ice. 50-year current lease the agreement has been in force since 2012.

Saimaa rented by Finland from Russia the channel area is a special strip around the world mass. The soil is owned by the Russian state, but Finland has rented it long lease. A similar there is no rental area anywhere else in the country in the air. Macao, Hong Kong and Panama the channel was a similar type of rental area,

but their contracts are no longer valid-mass.

Saimaa Canal on the Finnish side part is entirely in Lappeenranta-nan city, and its length is 23.3 miles. Russian side is 19.6 kilometers and is located in Kamennogorsk urban settlement and Selezjovogorsk on the border of rural settlement and Vyborg in town.

The total length of the channel is 42.9 kilometers. Total waterfall from Saimaa in Finland the bay has an average of 75.7 meters, and it is staggered by eight brackets, fall heights range from 5.5 meters to from 12.4 meters. Leads across the channel

seven openable and six fixed sil-this. The channel is 50-60 meters wide and at most six meters deep.

Transported along the Saimaa Canal in 2007, more than two million tonnes stuff, mainly forest and mining industrial raw materials and products.

The Channel Remote Access Center is located in Mäl-with a lock that can be executed by anyone use of channel closures and bridges. In addition from the channel's lowest lock, Brusnitchnoe (Cheese Mode) mea bottom closure Meritaito Oy is responsible for the maintenance.

Source: Wikipedia

## Fierce moments and relaxing holiday

Jennifer and James Hamilton's travel blog are hooks-ways to read. The modest cover of the blog hides inside a pearl worth diving for. Blog can be found at mvdirona.com.

The Finnish section of the blog is a relaxing holiday. Swamp-useful information can also be found for a Malaysian boater especially to the Saimaa Canal. At least for myself- leni got the feeling that once the americans survive- from the canal bureaucracy and the Russian border guards, so I guess you could do it yourself. this summer, I'm not going through my canal with my boat, but maybe next summer.

The blog also provides a perspective on travel boating. I am it rained that there was too much to buy this spring slow boat and enough time for a 8-10 knot On my Kari 23 boat "anywhere".

When I heard that Jennifer and James Hamilton Dirona circles the world with eight knots at machine speed, then at least my boat is no longer slow- I bet I haven't (yet) gone out on a boat- went on very long trips.

The blog also has a lot of articles on boat technology- dip. Hamiltonians do repairs and maintenance on their boat and the installation itself. Sometimes readers also get to give country tips for installing a technical device and maintenance.

There is also excitement on the blog. The greatest drama can be found real life, and this also applies to boating. For example why blog stories about Atlantic storm dumb- and after that, the storms of home waters do not seem like anything (though of course they must be respected).

From the blog, notice that the couple is to the tea than the situation Pacific calmly. Typical there is even something desirable in peace and tranquility malaista. Things are received as they come. Perhaps that is why the Hamiltonians enjoyed the filter. (AV)

This is important so that you can also dollar emergency repairs succeeded in the middle of the sea in difficult conditions. If you can't do basic maintenance itself, in case of emergency suddenly- it is hardly possible to correct a small bug. This is also a good rule of thumb for a shorter distance boating. Not all maintenance is worth outsourcing a boat service company, though there would be economic opportunities.

### Bidirectional communication

Blogging and Traveling they are a great extra for Hamiltons tation boating around the world. They feel they have succeeded in blogs, if they have something new in the destination country asukkaillekin.

- It has often happened that we are were able to bring out the subject things that local blogs follow even the limbs are unaware of or where they have not paid attention. Then you get the feeling that we are lucky- feelings,"says James Hamilton.

Jennifer Hamilton emphasizes that a good travel blog is the basis for wonder

and asking questions. Dare to ask stupid questions, wonder and look for answers to these.

- It often happens that the same we are looking for an answer to something, which others have pondered, but have not studied the matter further.

For example, during their trip to Saimaa have faced several questions that needed to be answered- purity. At the same time, they were able to teach a little bit of Finnish history for those to whom it was foreign.

- We were wondering why the country's channel passes through Russia. When then for this question we are looking answer, we learn the history of the Continuation War ria and also Urho Kekkonen.

Finland lost most of Saimaa from the channel to the Soviet Union with Dan in 1944, but pre- during the Kekkonen incident in the 1960s the channel was reopened to traffic. Finland leased the Saimaa Canal and the Neu- from the Soviet Union for 50 years in 1963. In 2012, you will continue to lease- was again 50 years.