

BOOKS TO READ, VIDEOS TO SEE

Being Out There, DVD

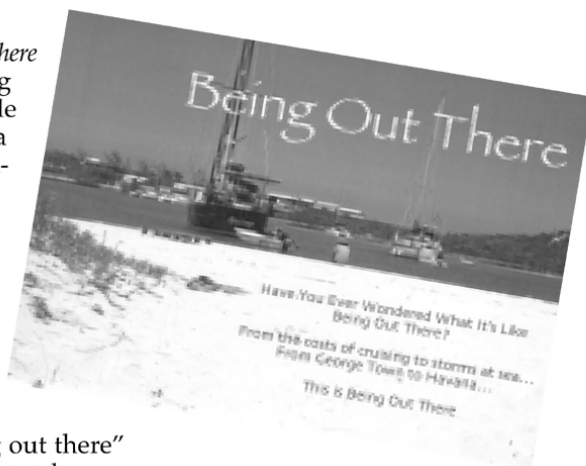
Being Out There is a cruising video. Made by a Tampa Bay company owned by a cruising couple, this video will tell you a little bit about what it's like "being out there" cruising around.

Mitch and Michelle Traphagen took several months and cruised the Bahamas and the Caribbean aboard their sailboat. When they returned, they wanted to make a video about cruising. Since they had professional experience in a related media field, they produced *Being Out There*.

The filming is in the Bahamas and other points south (including Havana), but the real interesting part is the interviews with miscellaneous cruisers who give the viewer an idea of what the cruising life is like. Among those interviewed were a couple that took their baby along, telling you what they encountered, joys and experiences they had, what their parents thought about them cruising with their grandchild, what their daily life was like. Another interview was with teenagers in the Bahamas who were cruising with their families—what they felt and missed and like about the lifestyle, what friends they made.

A fun and informative video, with beautiful scenes, leaving the viewer wanting to be out there now—or pretty soon anyway. Great music by Eileen Quinn, too.

Being Out There, Lifecaptions Studios, Ruskin, FL. DVD. www.sailingmovie.com. This video can be seen at the SOUTHWINDS booth at the Strictly Sail St. Pete Boat Show, Nov. 3-6.

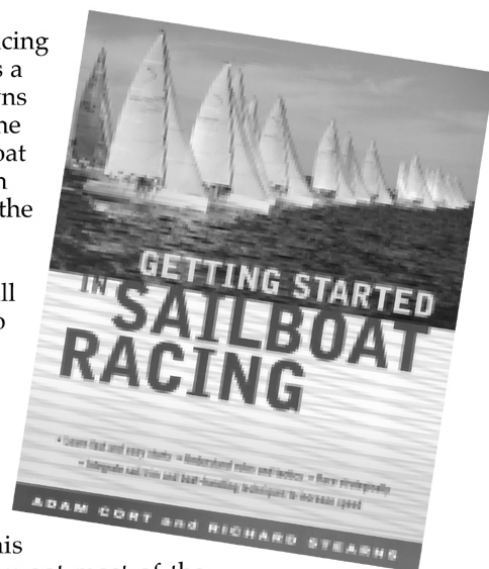


Getting Started in Sailboat Racing

Among non-racing sailors, there is a lot of unknowns surrounding the world of sailboat racing. You can really get into the sport if you know the following: Wait till after the bell to cross the start line, starboard tack has right of way, and aim to cross the finish line as fast as you can. With this knowledge, you got most of the battle won (then there is the party afterwards)—and you know enough to teach yourself out on the race-course.

This book will tell you a little more about the rules, how the flags work, the starting sequence, what PHRF ratings mean. Then it will tell you about the course, how to go faster and how to round the marks—with some strategy and tactics thrown in. Lots of great introductory info is in this book, and then it tells you a little more to get you into racing a little further if you want. The book is for those who want to crew, or those who bring their own boat.

Getting Started in Sailboat Racing by Adam Cort and Richard Stearns. International Marine/McGraw-Hill. www.internationalmarine.com.



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