

completed a relaxing week sailing up the island chain to Antigua, where we will base *Escapade* for the foreseeable future. This nearly 6,000-nm passage started out in Monfalcone near Venice on the northern extremity of the Adriatic in early September, and has been a mammoth three-month push to get out of the Mediterranean before the winter storms set in, with the ultimate destination being the warm waters of the Caribbean. We are seriously looking forward to just hanging out on the hook for awhile . . .

— Greg 12/8/18

Cruise Notes

• We've never considered bestowing an 'honorary' Baja Ha-Ha entry on anyone, but we're thinking about it after hearing from Eric Rigney of **Kandu**. After two unsuccessful attempts to join the Baja Ha-Ha (2013 and 2014), Eric, Leslie and their boys, Trent, 11, and Bryce, 13, left Ventura on their own in February, 2015. Af-



Above: 'Kandu'. Right: the Rigney family — (left to right) Eric, Bryce, Leslie and Trent — will complete a circumnavigation this spring.

ter making their way to French Polynesia by way of Mexico and the Galapagos, they anchored in the Marquesas for a year so the boys could attend the French public school — the first Americans to do so in the Marquesas.

The following summer, the boys earned their French SCUBA certifications in Fakarava, raced team outrigger ca-

noes in Tahiti, and surfed Ralatea, where they also attended a second year of public school. "Having not spoken a word of French prior to leaving California, the boys were now fluent," says Eric.

In May 2017, **Kandu** left Bora Bora for Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu and Australia where the Rigneys caught

the Sail 2 Indonesia Rally in late July. In February 2018, they headed over to India, crossed the Gulf of Aden, sailed up the Red Sea, and entered the Med through the Suez Canal. They spent last summer exploring the parts and ports of the "Wine-Dark Sea," then headed to the Caribbean via the Canaries and Cape Verde.

Trent left during a stopover in France to start high school in Southern California. Bryce will stay aboard to complete

the circumnavigation when he and his parents arrive back in California this coming May.