

# Gryphonsolo2 Solo Circumnavigation

*Scott Finlay*

May 10, 2016

On Thursday, May 6th at 8:27 a.m., friend and client Joe Harris, aboard his 40 foot sailboat the *Gryphon Solo 2* crossed the finish line in Newport Rhode Island, completing his solo around the world sailing adventure. While Joe wasn't able to set the world speed record of 137 days, this accomplishment puts Joe in the rarefied company of less than 100 individuals to ever complete a solo circumnavigation.

For those who did not follow him on the website [gryphonsolo2.com](http://gryphonsolo2.com), Joe was forced in to two unexpected stops; one in Cape Town South Africa to replace a burned-out circuit board on his hydro generators, the device that is used to recharge batteries for communication and navigation purposes, and the other in Uruguay where he discovered, several hundred miles off the coast, that his hull had delaminated after rounding the vicious waters of Cape Horn and that he was taking on water. Once he set foot on land the record attempt was lost, but the adventure of the lifetime continued.

Martha and I went down to Newport with a host of other fans to witness Joe crossing the official finish line. With the sail reefed and the winds and rain howling you could see the grin on his face from a hundred yards and the unbridled enthusiasm as he pumped his fists in the air and made his way towards his final stop.

A crowd of over a hundred fans lined the dock and news reporters crowded in for a picture and a word from the intrepid sailor. *"It's a really long way"* he said in his understated response with a grin on his face and his tired eyes longing for sleep. As his daughter Sophie ran down the dock with siblings in tow Joe reunited with his family and his friends after six long months; 152 days, 23 hours, 10 minutes and 24 seconds at sea.

Congratulations Joe, from all of us who watched your every move, who shared your adventure from the comfort of our homes and watched this real-life drama unfold each and every day. Your dream has become a reality. Thank you for sharing it with us and welcome home!

CAR 0522-01184

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