

THIS A STORY ABOUT AN AMAZING COUPLE SAILING ON A HOME-BUILT CATAMARAN AROUND THE WORLD ON A SHOE-STRING BUDGET, USING INGENUITY AND DETERMINATION TO SURVIVE.

# ZINGARO

## The True Spirit of Cruising

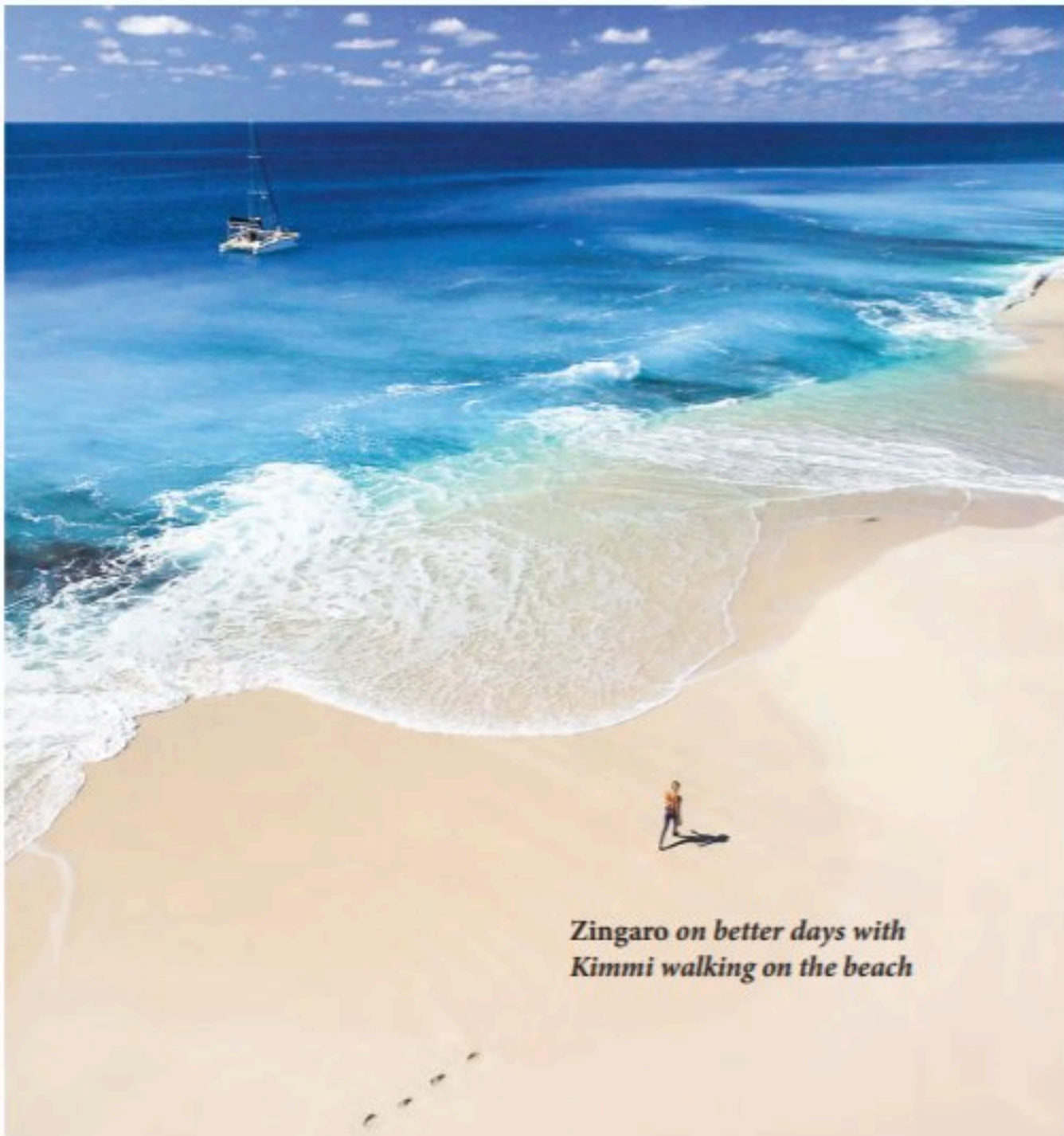
*Story Submitted by Steve Lindsay  
Photos by James and Kimmi on Zingaro*

**O**n Dec 22 at 0230am, a young couple in the final stages of sailing from Kiribati to Hawaii were caught up in very nasty seas in their 37-foot catamaran. They were 40 nautical miles off the south coast of the Big Island. They were being pounded by waves in 25-foot seas when a particularly strong one slammed the side of their catamaran, causing the starboard hull to break

loose from the bridge deck and start separating from the boat. This was in the dark, in the middle of the night, and they were in imminent danger of sinking as their vessel, taking on water with every wave that came, had essentially started to break in half.

They did not call a mayday, but raised the Coast Guard on the radio, who offered helicopter evacuation. The couple refused. They did not want to abandon ship as it would mean leaving everything behind. The Coast Guard agreed to send a ship out to escort the vessel as far as it could go and provide assistance as needed, and in case the boat began sinking. The seas were so rough that the Coast Guard ship lost an engine and half the crew were sea sick by the time





*Zingaro on better days with  
Kimmi walking on the beach*

the cutter *Oliver Berry* sailed the 170 nautical miles to reach s/v *Zingaro*. The ship arrived at around 2130 hours that evening, some 19 hours after *Zingaro* had been broadsided and damaged.

By the time the Coast Guard arrived, James, the captain, had tried to stabilize the separating hull with plywood and fasteners, but to no avail. He realized that the only way to secure the hull was to run rope around the vessel and use the winches on the other side of the boat to pull the hull back in and keep it



from breaking off completely and sinking. The only way to get the ropes around the hull was to swim them under the boat. In the pitch-black middle of the night, while the boat was being tossed around like a toy in big seas and very choppy water. It was a tremendous feat—and a remarkable demonstration of seamanship and levelheadedness in crisis.

They were very relieved to see the Coast Guard later that evening. They were given several gallons of diesel to fuel their one remaining motor, and escorted the



*Anchored off Moorea in the Society Islands*

rest of the way to the Honokohau fuel docks. James and Kimmi cannot say enough good things about the Coast Guard and the professionalism and kindness they showed. And, reports are that the Coast Guard crew were equally impressed with how the crew of *Zingaro* responded to





and handled an extremely tense and potentially life threatening catastrophic failure at sea.

James and Kimmi are currently resting up in Kona, and working on plans to deal with *Zingaro*. They plan to repair *Zingaro*, look for a new boat, and resume their cruise! They have the spirit of what the cruising life is all about! 🤝