

# Two Brothers, Both 1976 Graduates Set New World Record

***Guinness World Records (TM) Certifies, "The Longest Ocean Voyage in a Flats Boat"***



## The Book: *Bermuda Suicide Challenge In A Flats Boat*

The incredible true story of two brothers on an unprecedented fifteen hundred mile, unescorted voyage across the treacherous North Atlantic Ocean...in a single-engine, twenty-foot flats boat.



My brother Ralph invited me to go from North Carolina almost 700 miles to Bermuda on his own designed flats boat called the Intruder 21. The catch was that the boat was really only 21 feet long and with only two-foot sides before we loaded it up with nearly 2000 pounds of gasoline. We now only had less than a foot above the waterline. We were also to go by ourselves without any type of escort.

His plan was to make it to Bermuda, spend the night and return this time to New York harbor. After topping off the original 288 gallons plus an addition 50 gallons of gas; the trip back would be about 100 miles further. That, was his plan!

<http://www.bermudachallenge.com>

## The Boat Designer, Ralph Brown

I grew up in Cocoa Beach with a surfboard. I thought the only important thing in the world was chasing skirts, or bikinis. I served four years in the USMC. While in the USMC I accepted the Lord Jesus as my personal savior. Then I went to Hyles-Anderson College, in Crown Point, Indiana. I have worked as a Financial Planner for more than ten years. About seven years ago while out boating with my two boys, I hit a rock and broke the motor. I began thinking that there was a better way to build a boat. I did not have much money so I took on investors. I am still looking for some. Many people did not believe my boats would run so shallow, over rocks, and also across big seas, so I decided to prove it to both possible boat buyers, and possible investors. I did not know it would be a record until Bob Hite, a local TV anchor brought it up.



I had another partner going with me but he had to back out at the last minute, so I asked Bob to go. At first he said no, then agreed to come, I really wanted a second person in the boat, just in case there were unseen problems. He was great, as we did have a couple of problems, he did not panic.

I am married to Anne Brown. We live in Spring Hill, near Tampa, with our three children: Phillip 16, Heath 14, and Brittany 11.

<http://www.dreamboats.net>

## The Newly Published Author, Bob Brown



I am 49 years old and have been married to Jill for about 21 years. We have two boys Bryan and Jonathan. We own two pets, Casey our Golden/Labrador Retriever and Benny our black and white cat.

I have spent much of my youth around the Banana and Indian rivers and surfing in the Atlantic Oceans in Cocoa Beach, Florida. I am still a surfer and have surfed for over 35 years. My favorite board from my quiver at this time is a 9'0" bisect board I made from a 9'4" board that I broke in half a couple of years ago. It's a little slow paddling, but it rides nice and fits in my work van.

I used to scuba dive a fair amount, but have slowed down because lack of partners, it's expensive and I don't own a motor boat anymore. I've been a certified scuba diver since the 80's. I used to take my 21 foot Bayliner Bowrider (don't own it anymore) out 26 miles to the Pelican Grounds off Cape Canaveral, Florida to bottom fish and dive at 100 plus. Once I caught an 11 pound barnacle crusted lobster there. I still own an 18 foot Hobie sail boat with a broken mast (Ralph helped me break it after going five miles out in the Ocean). I still use the fiberglass kayak that I built in Cocoa Beach High School in the 70's.

I am still a handyman/house painter and have been self employed for over 26 years.

