



Sponsor our Race to Alaska

3 women. 750 miles. A wilderness awaits.

WHAT: On June 9, 2024, three adventurous mamas on team “Sail Like A Mother” (SLAM) will cast off dock lines in Port Townsend, Washington and sail 750 miles to Ketchikan, Alaska. The Race to Alaska has only two rules: No motors, and no outside support allowed. We expect it will take us two weeks (but we’re preparing for three).

With gnarly ocean currents, freezing water, and remote coastlines full of grizzly bears, this race is as much about survival—and pushing all the limits—as it is about sailing.

WHY: As mothers, we want to prove to our children that we can do hard things and achieve lofty goals when we fully commit our mind, body and spirit. As adventurers, we feel pulled to test our mettle in the untrammled wilderness of the North Pacific. Plus, we want to #SailLikeAMOTHER to show how powerful a team of women can be.

We’re also scientists who are dedicated to making our planet a better place. While sailing north, SLAM will collect data on [underwater noise pollution](#) for the non-profit research group, [Oceans Initiative](#). Noise from ships or other human activities threatens ocean animals that rely on sound cues to “see” in the sea. By recording and mapping underwater sounds, we can help pinpoint and protect the ocean’s quiet places, and encourage policies that hush loud places.

TEAM SLAM: [Brianna Randall](#) is a writer, yoga teacher and all-around nature addict. She’s sailed 6,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean, cruised through the Caribbean, and made wakes in Montana lakes, the Gulf of California, the San Juan Islands and Alaska’s Inside Passage. She’s been dunking in Montana’s ice-cold creeks daily to build endurance for the R2AK.

[Katie Gaut](#) is a GIS storyteller, goat shepherd and expert gunkholer. She’s held her 50-ton master Coast Guard license for 20 years and is an ASA sailing instructor. She’s navigated the Inside Passage and knows the San Juan Islands like the back of her hand. She’s been chasing chickens and her son on her farm near Bellingham to train for the R2AK.

Melissa Roberts is an aquatic ecologist turned ER nurse who knows next to nothing about sailing but lots about Type 2 fun. She spent many summers cruising the Inside Passage as a cook on an eco-tourism boat, and can’t wait to return to those magical waters. In preparation for the R2AK,

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she's started a daily squat routine in Bellingham between compiling Bon Jovi playlists and drying bushels of apples.

COST: We're going to do this race as cheaply as we can—which includes using a bucket as a toilet while sailing (sorry if that's TMI!). But it's still costly to take a month off work and outfit three women for this type of race. Here's a basic rundown of our expenses:

- **The boat! \$15,000** We bought an old Santa Cruz 27 named *Wild Card* for \$10,000 that raced in the 2018 R2AK. It is light and fast and (almost) bigger than a shoebox. It's also (slightly) drier. We also have to pay for boat insurance, the race entry fee, and monthly dock/trailer storage space for a year.
- **The gear + food! \$4,000** It's cold and wet the whole way. Like, grow-mold-on-your-toenails wet. We need to buy drysuits, waterproof boots and gloves, and a LOT of propane to boil endless cups of coffee and soup. Also, we need the coffee and soup.
- **The return! \$5,000** The race is one way. Which means we have to figure out how to get the boat -- and ourselves -- back home. This involves ferries, trailers, planes, and possibly some hocus-pocus.

WHAT YOU GET: Besides warm fuzzies and a REALLY big hug from three grateful mamas, sponsors will receive these benefits:

- **Earned media:** Brianna is a renowned journalist whose stories about travel, culture and science have appeared in National Geographic, The Washington Post, Outside, CNN, Discover, BBC, Cruising World, Backpacker and in [dozens of other venues](#). She plans to write extensively about this voyage for various publications, and will highlight sponsors whenever possible. SLAM will also include sponsor links in regular posts to our website: saillikeamother.com.
- **Advertising space:** All sponsors' logos will be listed and linked on our website. For sponsorships \$1,000 or more in value, we will also put a decal of your logo on our boat.
- **Social media shout-outs:** SLAM members will tag sponsors in posts on Instagram and Facebook as we prepare for the race. The Race to Alaska also has a dedicated digital following, with 20k Facebook followers, 11.2k Instagram followers, an active YouTube channel and a burgeoning TikTok presence. Photos of Team SLAM will be shared widely on their digital media before and during the race.

THANK YOU! We so appreciate you considering this request. Let us know if you have any questions or ideas about our upcoming voyage. We hope you'll partner with us to #SailLikeAMOTHER to Alaska this summer.



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