

World Traveler Avoids Storms by Utilizing the Power of Iridium® and OCENS

The story of Nick Authier, who completed a single-handed sail, cruising from Florida to California and how throughout his trip, Iridium GO!® and the OCENS weather app GRIB Explorer Plus were key elements for planning and safety.

THE CHALLENGE

Nick Authier is a sailor who travels around the world. For him it is not a convenience but a requirement to stay connected. Nick needed a solution that would provide reliable weather and ocean information for his navigation and trip planning from Florida to California, but also a personal communicator to help him stay connected with family and friends.

THE SOLUTION

The solution that Nick used for a single – handed sail cruising from Florida to California was Iridium GO! paired with the GRIB Explorer Plus app by OCENS. According to Mark Freeberg, OCENS President, Iridium GO! is an important and natural extension for their weather apps

Iridium GO!



and software. He shares “When we got introduced to the global Iridium footprint, Wi-Fi character and craftsmanship of Iridium GO!, we quickly recognized that the Iridium GO! user base would be a fertile market for our software and apps.” OCENS’ GRIB Explorer Plus provides rapid and affordable access to weather and ocean information for customers

spread around the world. A huge advantage of Iridium GO! itself is that it is mobile and affordable. Nick says “The great thing about Iridium GO! compared to a Single Side Band radio (SSB) is that when a friend of mine needs help with a passage, I can come equipped. If I had opted for an SSB solution for my long range communications it would be fixed with my boat. Also, the upfront installation cost for SSB is high. I prefer the lower initial cost and the easy iPad interface of Iridium GO!”

THE IMPACT

Nick Authier used Iridium GO! and the GRIB Explorer Plus for iPad for weather and ocean data to stay connected during a single – handed sail cruising from Florida to California through the Panama Canal. Nick shares that Iridium GO! and OCENS played an instrumental role in his journey facilitating mission critical sailing. He was able to track two storms that generated a significant cloud deck which hindered his solar energy production from the two 235W solar panels on his boat on which he relied intensely on this trip. He didn’t need a salvage operation, but it was a great comfort feeling after a long solo ocean crossing journey. For Nick the OCENS app was key in his decision making process to stop for fuel in Bahia Tortuga, Mexico. He was able to engage with his friends at shore to prepare them for what to expect on that improvised stop over. He also used Iridium GO! for voice calls on multiple occasions, including contacting his insurance company after his boat suffered some damage, calling his bank and staying in touch with family and friends. “I don’t sail “weather blind.” Everybody knows that if I am on-board for an offshore passage, there is an active Iridium GO! and GRIB Explorer Plus connection on that boat.” says Nick.

We quickly recognized that the Iridium GO! would be a fertile market for our software and apps.

“Traveling at sea is extremely dependent on communication, navigation and weather. And the stakes to get it right are high. Iridium GO! and OCENS helped Nick get it right during his extended single-voyage” explains Mark. Iridium GO! and OCENS provided a thrilling example of satellite connectivity enabling critical communications for the offshore mariner. ★