

ON: What were your advance preparations before departing?

B&C: Getting ready was a bit like a snowball heading down a steep mountain. We started off slowly, about two years before leaving, I'd taken a basic sailing course, we'd spoken to the kids and to the people in our work world, so they all knew our intention.

We'd purchased *Big Sky* a year before we departed, so we'd gone through the tough job of naming and registering the boat. As we neared the departure date, that snowball was really gaining momentum and everything was happening

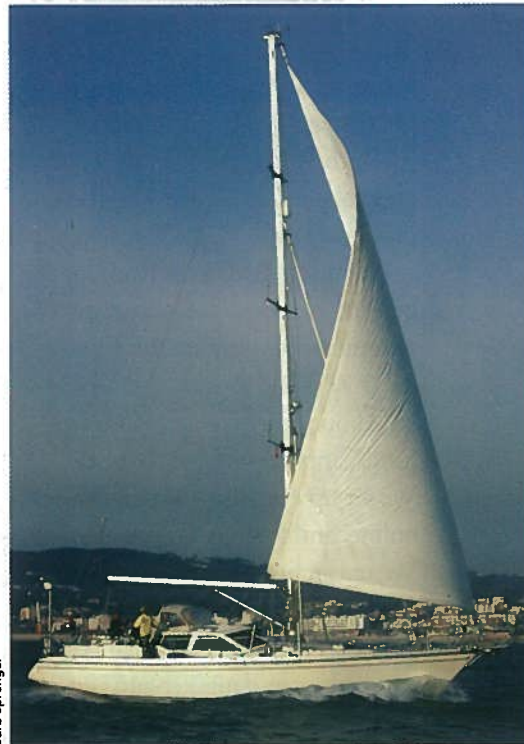
at once. It was an exercise both physically and emotionally.

We'd prepared our beautiful yard for low maintenance, then leased out our home. Packing it up was more difficult for Con I think, as he had 30 years to sort through. I'd just moved in four years earlier so I'd identified the items in my life that I had to have and the rest were just things. We set about the task of sorting everything into three areas:

To give away: most of our things.

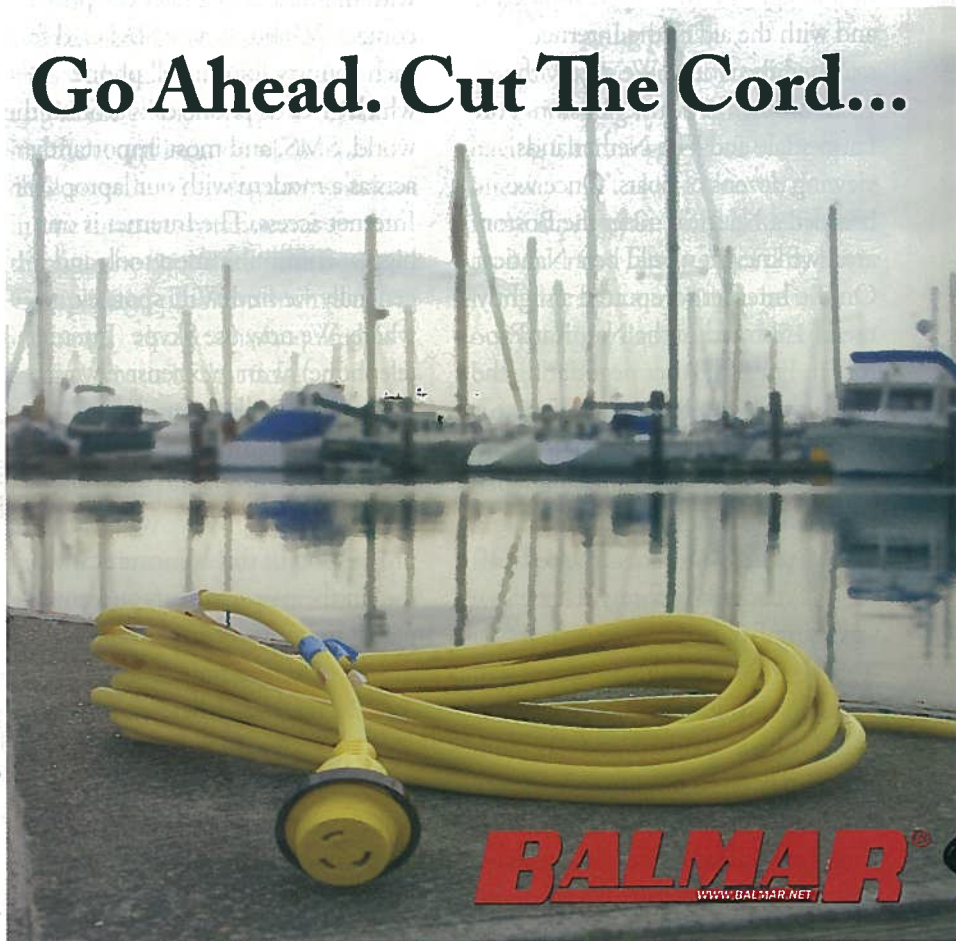
To storage: our photo albums, heirlooms, and odd little things.

To *Big Sky*: tools, Gill suits and clothes, fold-up bikes, voyaging books, reference guides, travel books,



Barb Sprenger

Go Ahead. Cut The Cord...



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