

# Meet the sailor who designed the ultimate duffel bag for sailors

*And win one for yourself if you're lucky*

There are two kinds of entrepreneurs. First are those who decide to start a business, research the market to determine what sort of business that should be, put together a business plan, talk to bankers, and take a calculated risk. These folks buy McDonald's franchises. Members of the second group see a need, get an idea, become obsessed by it, and fall into business with few plans laid. They have unbridled enthusiasm for the product and an inherent understanding of the market, since they were just a part of that group. These dreamers start *Good Old Boat*-type magazines and Weekend'R Products.

Meet Ken Kloeber, the founder of Weekend'R Products. An engineer by trade, a passionate sailor throughout

his life, and more recently a designer of the neatest duffel bags yet created. These are not duffel bags in the old sense of a big sack, but rather duffels with oodles of nifty pockets. These bags were created for sailors by one who wanted a bag perfect for his own sailing adventures. Ken first developed a smaller version that can be used as carry-on luggage on airplanes, and a whole new market (airplane travelers) is on the verge of discovering this product. But that's another story, one that is still being written.

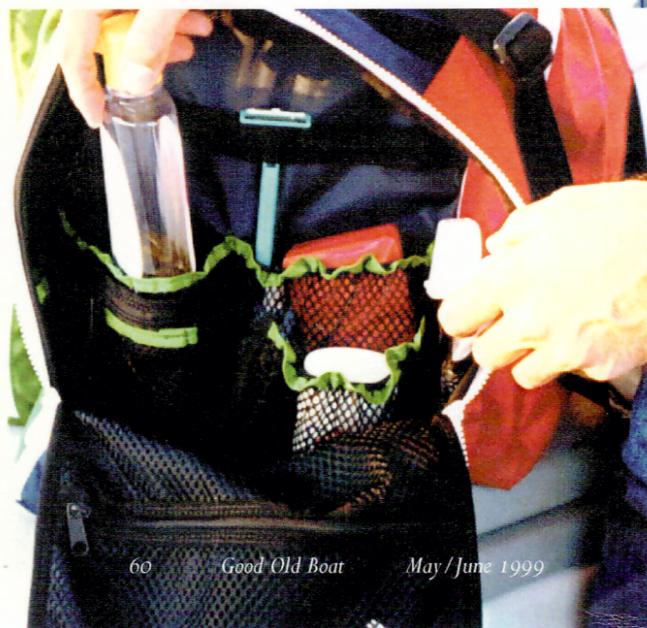
In the beginning Ken wanted a bag that worked for him (*the engineer in him cried out for organization and durability*), and his brother wanted a pair of hats with his boat name stitched

on them with a matching font and logo. Neither of these products was to be found. Thus Ken's back room became a graphics and design center. His brother got his hats, and the rest of us can get embroidered, customized bags. But not just any bags. We've used ours for a season and can't say enough good things about their durability and neat features. Features like a detachable end compartment for carrying toiletries to the marina showers, key holders, wallet pockets, a chart-sized pocket, sturdy zipper pulls, padded shoulder straps and handles, and so on.

**by Karen Larson**

We were hooked enough to ask Ken to offer two of these to winners of the *Good Old Boat* subscriber drawing in June. The second-place winner wins the larger Weekend'R Deluxe bag, and the third-place winner wins the airline-size G'tAway Deluxe bag, both personalized for them. (*The first-place winner will receive a hand-crafted model of his boat*

**The ultimate duffel bag for sailors: soft, durable, thoughtfully designed with a nifty zip-off shower tote below, a chart-sized pocket, and available in "scads" of bright colors of your choice. You wanted it personalized for your boat with its logo? No problem.**



*created by Tom Thomas, featured in the March issue.)*

Customizing these heavy-duty Dupont Codura fabric bags is something else. Pick your combination of colors, choose where you'd like your boat name to appear, add your own name or an artist's rendering of your boat or both. You get the idea. Work it out with Ken, and it will happen to your specifications. Can't wait to win one of these? Ken's the ultimately wired Internetter, so email him at [WkndrBag@aol.com](mailto:WkndrBag@aol.com), visit his website: <http://members.aol.com/WkndrBag>, fax or phone him at 716-941-6068, or write to P.O. Box 154, 8687 Boston State Rd., Boston, NY 14025.

Once Ken had the scanner, sources for Codura cloth, and a growing business, he discovered (or rather invented, since he's an engineer) a few more things he'd like to have aboard his boat: a first-rate Spinnaker Guy, sail ties extraordinaire, tote bags, a turtle for spinnaker storage. And now he's developing a prototype for a spreader halyard that won't allow the

courtesy or club ensign to wrap around the halyard or shroud. This I've got to see.

And what has he learned since becoming a businessman in 1996? "So far," he says, "I've learned that people like being dealt with fairly. The Good Old Way, I guess. I have gear bags that are all over the country and traveled across the globe, and it all boils down to boaters being people with a common bond.

If I can meet their needs, then the products will 'work.' If not, then I'm not listening closely enough."

If you're not a paid subscriber with *Good Old Boat*, now's the time to get in on our drawing. One of Ken's bags could be yours.



**Ken's Spinnaker Guy in action above, and the sailor below at home on his**

**Catalina 30, Positive Impact, which he and partner Sherry Hughes sail on Lake Erie. Ken started sailing early in life on Lake George with a family friend who was careful to label the outings as "fun," rather than "learning experiences."**



The Boye Boat Knife is a special case in knife technology. The blade is made from a cobalt alloy designed to resist corrosion and still be hard enough to hold a good edge. With stainless-steel alloys you can have one or the other, but not both. Ever notice that none of the good wood- or metal-working tools are made from stainless steel? Stainless is really not a tool alloy. This cobalt alloy blade starts out as an investment casting, which does some pretty exotic things with its metallurgy as it cools. This kind of technology is bound to cost more than a blade made from recycled soup cans with a little chrome added.

From all this you'd think this knife would spend a lot of time in my pocket this summer. It will not. Because it is light-weight and completely non-magnetic, it's going to be my new life jacket knife. It will take its turn with the other fine knives in my drawer in the winter. Not bad, since I'm fussy about pocket knives. **Boye Knives, 800-853-1617, <http://www.boyeknives.com>**.

**Duffel bag extraordinaire**

When we started *Good Old Boat* magazine five years ago, we bought a couple of serious duffel bags to replace a pair of disintegrating bags purchased not too many years before from Target. The new ones from Weekend'R Products cost more, but will outlast the cheap bags by a millennium or more. Designed for sailors by sailor Ken Kloeber, our Weekend'R Deluxe bags have special features we like (such as key hooks and a zip-off shower bag). We chose the colors

we wanted and had them personalized with our names and our brand-new logo.

What's to mention five years later? Durability. For five years these bags have been dragged to the boat from trunk to dockcart to cockpit to cabin every weekend and in all kinds of weather. They've flown on many an airplane and gotten dizzy on just as many luggage carousels. They still look great. They haven't lost a stitch. All zippers work. All snaps snap. They're good to go for another five years at least. We hope to hold up as well. **Weekend'R Products, 716-941-6068, <http://members.aol.com/wkndrbag/>**.

The durable and useful Weekend'R Deluxe bags have zip-off showerbags, one large pocket, and three small ones. They're colorful, personalized, and tough as nails.



**D&R Marine Inc.**  
DISCOUNT SAILING SUPPLY

*Everything O'day and more*

Hatches & Portlights	Rope & Splicing
Rub Rail	Bow Rails
Rudders	Canvas
Furlers	Sails
Tillers	Spars
Rigging	Hardware
Travellers	Stanchions
Teak Moldings	Centerboards



2003 O'Day Widgeon

**O'day** Official supplier for all O'day sailboat parts

Telephone: 508 644-3001  
Fax: 508 644-3002

<http://www.drmarine.com>

**STANDOUT YACHT FITTINGS**

Customized fabric accessories to "dress up" every yacht!



Grab Rail "SPATS"  
A Worthy Investment!

**How many hours do you spend sanding and varnishing your boat's handrails?**  
**\$ TIME IS MONEY \$**

Order custom made quality covers—Grab Rail Spats—and save \$\$\$ on those hours of labor!  
Available in any Sunbrella color, \$30-up per pair.

**1-800-622-1877**  
E-mail: [standout@raincity.com](mailto:standout@raincity.com)  
Fax (253) 884-2253  
6826 Cliff Ave. KPS  
Longbranch WA 98351

Satisfaction guaranteed!