

# BEYOND THE BREAKWATER

Set sail from Port Orchard Marina with Jake and Tres as they share their beloved boating anecdotes.

## Meet Jake & Tres

Jake and Tres met in 2000 while working at Microsoft. They quickly realized there was more to their relationship than work and began their life together. Part of this life? Getting a boat.

Called the 'Plain Jane', it is anything but. Tres and Jake seem to have some roles in their relationship when it comes to boating, with Tres taking lead on all the bells and whistles. Their sailboat, a Cal 39, is described as being nice, stable, and solid. While it's not fast, it makes for a "lovely day sail" and is the perfect rig for "gentleman of leisure" such as themselves. They think motor boats are too

easy and love the challenge that comes with sailing – they even replaced the motor and the standard rigging from the last owner.



While the learning didn't come naturally, Tres loves all things technical (fitting given that Tres's day job is engineering). Designer Jake, on the other hand, loves being a passenger and taking on the adventurous spirit. They describe themselves as being opportunistic travelers and mostly sail around the Puget Sound. Their favorite trips are to Port Townsend and the San Juan Islands, but they feel there's so much more in store for them. They discussed becoming Coast Guard certified as a possibility and they encourage anyone interested in sailing to join the Shilshole sailing club.

Perhaps the most endearing thing about Plain Jane and her inhabitants? The friendly lab/pitbull, Doc. While Doc spends most of his time tied up in the cabin while sailing, he loves to explore the deck when anchored and makes for the cutest companion. Beyond the four-legged variety, though, Jake and Tres love to have their two-legged families aboard as well...

## Come Sail Away

Jake and Tres prioritize community, and one component of that is naturally their

friends and family. Both of their parents seem to love the benefits of having kids with a boat, especially given that Tres's dad was one of the main influences in Tres's interest of the matter.



Their friends, however, are also particularly grateful. One couple has a five-year-old who adores it. Jake and Tres say that she is already a natural and that it was such an enriching experience for her. After running her through a string of tests and requiring litter removal from the waters, they even swore her in as a junior captain.

They liken their boat to being a camper van on water and love to sail to “mysterious Pacific islands”. They say that they would never want to turn their hobby into work, but they do enjoy teaching kids the ropes, volunteering, and meeting new people.

They reflect that every time they travel, they end up with people with whom they have no choice of. They say that you encounter “worldwide weirdness” and that you meet people while out that you otherwise never would have. At times you receive peaceful tranquility and others a party.

One time, at an Everett Marina, they attended a movie night to watch the classic film *Footloose*. There, they met all sorts of people, shared all sorts of snacks, and even were convinced by another party to give a neighboring kid some spicy popcorn. Another time, they happened to see a beautiful boat nearby and had to “worm their way” onto the boat.

While the people were glad to show it off, it seems they were even more appreciative when Tres was able to help them with their wireless Internet connection.

It turns out, it really is all about the people you meet in life. When reflecting even further back to Covid times, Jake says that “he didn’t appreciate how much community meant until he lost it”.

## Looking Ahead

In the bigger picture, Jake and Tres find boats such as *Lady Washington*, who frequently docks at Port Orchard Marina, to be aspirational. They love the idea of crewing and are always open to



giving it a try.

It seems, like most people, there is a certain element of looking forward to retiring. They look ahead to taking longer trips, including the passage to Alaska. They enjoy traveling around, and while It's certainly "Pacific Northwest ready" now, they also would love to accomplish Tres's bucket list trip to Hawaii and Jake's bucket list adventure to Marquesas or Cape Horn.

Having lived on a houseboat previously in Seattle, they don't feel that they would ever live full-time on Plain Jane. Beyond having more time on their hands, which retiring with surely help with, they also ponder that it may be nice to have more room to sleep- the one downside to sharing a bed with Doc.

## Setting Sail

Jake and Tres are two of the kindest and most fun individuals one could meet. Their exuberant energy around not just boating, but life in general makes it easy to fall in love with the idea of whatever they're explaining.

If you're interested in learning to sail, Tres says to focus on "just enjoying the water and building community". Being based in the Pacific Northwest, Tres also says "we live in one of the most incredible boating destinations." Tres reflects that boaters are friendly people: consider checking out sailing clubs, or if you're feeling bold, just show up at a marina. People will likely give you tours and tips, and the most important thing is to learn.

He also stresses that you should encourage others to do it with you, even if it means "dragging them out." Both are big proponents of community, and Jake specifically would love to live on a houseboat again. He says that supporting boats and community development is a big passion for him.



On the other hand, it was said that if they win the lottery, there would be signs... by way of a seaplane! Be sure to keep an eye out for Jake and Tres on their next adventure wherever the water (or sky, if they're lucky enough!) may take them.

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