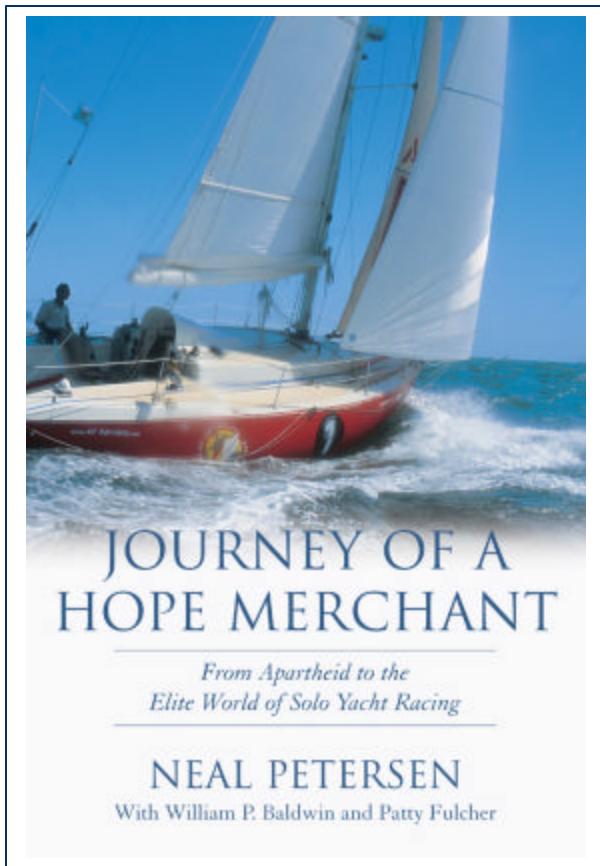


2005 NATIONAL OUTDOOR BOOK AWARD WINNER



"If I were on a boat in trouble, or anywhere in danger for that matter, I'd want Neal Petersen beside me. He never gives up, never quits; he always finds a way to fix something, to get the thing done, to stay alive. "*Journey of a Hope Merchant*" is a wonderful account of the world's most unlikely and most determined sailor, who hauled himself up and out of apartheid South Africa into the cockpit of his own, home-built, round-the-world racing yacht. Petersen's life is a terrific and inspiring story of triumph over adversity achieved by courage and ability, and his rise above shameful race prejudice is a prolonged act of grace. To put it simply, Petersen is a true hero."

Derek Lundy, author of the New York Times Bestseller Godforsaken Sea

The story of the life of a black South African is at the heart of this book on solo yacht racing, entitled *Journey of a Hope Merchant* by Neal Petersen. It was the winner of the History/Biography Category of the 2005 National Outdoor Book Awards. Winners of National Outdoor Book Award represent some of the finest outdoor writing and artwork being published today.

Petersen was born physically disabled and impoverished in apartheid-era South Africa, but was introduced to healing and equality in the waters surrounding Cape Town. *Journey of a Hope Merchant* recounts the epic journey that took this misfit kid from a racially segregated, working class neighborhood to the prestigious world of solo yacht racing. His gripping account of the 1998-99 "Around Alone" race, made famous by the mid-ocean rescue of the French sailor Isabelle Autissier, may become a classic of nautical writing.

Written with a freshness and style that reflect his unstoppable optimism, the story of Petersen's compelling journey is proof that the harshest lessons learned at sea apply to all aspects of life and that even the wildest dreams are attainable.

In *Journey of a Hope Merchant*, Neal Petersen describes how he overcame physical disability and the humiliation of apartheid to compete in one of the most dangerous of all sports: solo sailing around the globe. While many of his well-heeled fellow competitors sail in the latest technological, multi-million dollar marvels, Petersen built his own yacht, scrounging supplies and materials.

Without enough money to install electronic navigation equipment, he sails off on his first solo voyage with a sextant that he hadn't yet learned how to use. From then on it's all adventure. His account of racing around Cape Horn and surviving a vicious night of monstrous waves and multiple knockdowns is as thrilling as it gets. Quite simply, this is a wonderful story of the sea, and one man's hope, determination, and joy for life.