

Melodie Schaffer BIO

Melodie Schaffer embarked on the inaugural Globe 40 double handed race around the world in her Class 40 boat 'Whiskey Jack'. The race entailed 8 legs, around all three Capes. She sailed 35,000 miles in this adventure with 174 days on the ocean. From torn sails, to avoiding pirates, to no wind instruments or communication at times, the challenges were immense. Despite the challenges, she won leg 7 and set three race records including the overall one of 347 nautical miles in a 24-hour period. She was the only female skipper for the entire race, and the first Canadian woman to race around the world.

She has sailed her entire life and trained seriously in sailing until her mid twenties, when she switched gears to focus on her career in biomedical engineering. She worked in that field for five years and then switched gears again to become a full time stay at home mom after her second child was born. For twenty years her dedication was to her children and her family. In 2018, she tried her first offshore sailing regatta. She came home from the event and told her family that although she loved being a mom and family life, she has forgotten about herself and how much sailing meant to her, and that she needed to find a way to fit more of it into her life. She signed up for various offshore events building her knowledge and in 2021 bought her raceboat Whiskey Jack. Her kids are now university age plus, so she has been able to focus on sailing for the last two years, as a semi pro sailor.

Melodie Schaffer was awarded the Canadian Rolex sailor of the year award for 2023, the Gerry Roufs Canadian Offshore Sailor award for 2024 and the Women of Inspiration award inaugural Women in Sport award for 2024.

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