

**John Clower**

July 9, 2010

Hi, Beth.

If you're reading this then you must be back too.

You've taken crap by the truckload from every direction and I'm sorry if I ever contributed by piling on. Maybe that was your own Hoka Hey Challenge; if so, persevering the way you have makes you one hell of a warrior. Get the tattoo, kiddo; you deserve it as much as anyone.

Over the years, my youthful "sail around the world" exuberance has been buried under the weight of everyday life. But the Hoka Hey Challenge gave me a chance to re-discover parts of me I greatly miss and to find things I didn't know were there. And that's the grand prize. I had the time of my life, literally. This experience could not have been had any other way. I wouldn't trade it for anything and I'd sign up again in a heartbeat.

You had some amazing helpers, Beth. Mark, Robin, Boris, Caretaker and the others were all great. I sincerely appreciate their help and, even more, their friendship.

And now, for Jim. Having a vision is no big deal. We all have them all the time. But you went on to the next step and executed the vision. That is rare and highly commendable. You have a great deal to be proud of, Jim. There are plenty of critics. Kind of like lawyers, way too many. But those who can't see past the administrative issues and recognize this immense accomplishment for what it is have never tried to turn a dream into reality. You've touched many lives in a very meaningful way. Those who finished in Homer will never forget what they learned along the way. Those who didn't finish will never understand.

Please accept my most sincere gratitude.

~ John Clower