

Dreams

SET SAIL FOR THE BORREGO FAMILY

BY ERIN VANDER WEELE

PHOTOS BY SHANNON
LUND PHOTOGRAPHY



NEIGHBOR RAFAEL BORREGO WAS BORN IN CUBA AND CAME TO THE UNITED STATES WHEN HE WAS 8-YEARS-OLD. He grew up in Chicago then, at 17-years-old, moved to Miami, where he fell in love with sailboats. His life-long dream of learning to sail was finally realized when he and his family moved to Madison and joined the Waubesa Sailing Club.

Rafael and his wife Krista, love to sail with their kids Zoe, age 9, and Lincoln, age 7. They are quite involved in the Waubesa Sailing Club, a not-for-profit organization consisting of active sailors of all experience levels. Their boat is a RK20, a 20 foot cruising sailboat called, "Havana" (named after the city where Rafael was born).

They joined the Waubesa Sailing Club five years ago once they moved to Madison from Chicago. Rafael says the club was welcoming and he spent a summer crewing on their now good friend Lars Barber's sailboat. The next summer, the Borregos were ready to buy their own sailboat.

"The club helped us with everything from buying a sailboat, to finding a lift, to helping us step our mast for the first time and launching the boat," Rafael says.

"We love being in the sailing club not only to learn from some very experienced sailors, but there is also a great comradery among the group," Krista adds. "We enjoy the friendships,



community, and the strong bond of the club. Everyone is so welcoming and willing to pass on their knowledge. We have made numerous life-long friends which becomes rare as you get older.”

In 2019, they took a trip of a lifetime to the British Virgin Islands with members of the Waubesa Sailing Club. The 17 members on the trip chartered three sailboats and island hopped for a week.

“In just that week we learned a ton about sailing,” Rafael says.

Rafael and Krista met online in Chicago in 2006. They married in Madison at the Monona Terrace in 2008.

Rafael has a master’s degree in IT security from Depaul University in Chicago. He currently owns NextStep Cloud, a cloud services consulting company. Krista has a bachelor’s degree in business from UW-Eau Claire and is currently a Pharmaceutical Representative for Biohaven Pharmaceuticals.

Their kids are also involved in many different sports including basketball, baseball, soccer and swimming lessons. The family belongs to the McFarland Lutheran Church. They also love checking out hiking and biking spots around Madison.

Lincoln, who loves athletics, plays soccer, baseball and basketball. He also enjoys miniature golf. Zoe plays basketball



and is very active in girl scouts. She is a social butterfly and loves people. The family has a butterfly sailboat, a very small sailboat to teach kids how to sail. The kids named the boat Blueberry. Lincoln has been very engaged in learning how to sail this summer.

Also members of the Borrego family, their two dogs, Wrigley, a 10-year-old chocolate lab, and Juneau, a 2-year-old Alaskan Malamute.

The family has lived in Secret Places in McFarland for four years. They moved to McFarland because they wanted lake access and to be close to downtown Madison. They enjoy going out to eat and taking in all the great music.

“We love our neighborhood because there are a ton of kids around,” Krista shares. “There is always a friend for our kids to play with! It is filled with fun families!”

As a family, they love to take vacations anywhere by the ocean.

“This last February, for the first time by ourselves as a family we were able to charter a 31 foot sailboat in St. Petersburg, Florida,” Krista says. “It was so exciting and a milestone for us! Five years ago we joined the sailing club with no sailing experience and five years later are sailing on the ocean! So

exciting! Our dream is to buy and live on a sailboat in the winters when we retire.”

The Waubesa Sailing Club encourages all age groups and skill levels to participate and enjoy the sport of sailing. The club also welcomes community members to meet and participate in club races and social events.

“We would encourage anyone that is interested in learning to sail to check us out,” Krista says. “The club consists of all ages and we would love to have more families! You will meet some amazing people that have such very big hearts and are a ton of fun!”

“It’s neat to see my 7-year-old boy get so excited about learning to sail,” she adds. “What a neat life skill to learn so young. My daughter is always excited to go sailing to see her best friend Lily who is in the club as well. So not only have we made life-long friends, but I’m pretty sure our kids have too.”

To learn more about the Waubesa Sailing Club, visit www.waubesasailingclub.org or www.facebook.com/sailwaubesa.

