



CIRCUMNAVIGATION.....

BY **KLINK FAMILY**

TEN YEARS AFTER
TAKING THEIR THREE
6- AND 8-YEAR-
OLD DAUGHTERS
TO ANTARCTICA
FOR A ONE-MONTH
EXPEDITION ABOARD
SAILBOAT PARATII
2, THE COUPLE
MARINA AND AMYR
KLINK PROVE THAT A
UNITED FAMILY CAN
MOVE ICEBERGS

I miss the smell of snow.” Even after more than 40 trips to Antarctica and two polar circumnavigations navigator Amyr Klink, an economist who 30 years ago traded the corporate environment for the sea, takes only a couple of seconds to answer what makes him return, whenever he can, to the frozen continent.

As the sun sets on a fall afternoon in São Paulo, Marina Bandeira Klink, Amyr’s wife, receives us at the family’s home. She is a photographer with a major in Social Communication, and mother of their three daughters, the twins Tamara and Laura, 19 years old, and Marina Helena, called Marininha, 16 years old.

The youngest daughter, Marininha, is the first to arrive in the living room. A sophomore in high school, planning to major in Geography or Biology, she starts remembering the first trip to Antarctica, when she had her sixth birthday while crossing Cape Horn, at the southern end of the South American continent. Soon after, Amyr arrives and greets everyone, without interrupting the conversation. Tamara, an architecture student at USP - Universidade de São Paulo - is the next to arrive and with a shy “Hello” sits on the couch. Minutes later Laura comes in, apologizing as she was finalizing a paper for the Design course which she is taking at ESPM - Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing.

It is 6:30 p.m. and the Klink family spends the next three hours sharing with **Inside Chapel** their experiences in the ice sea under the unpredictable weather of Antarctica. Night falls, it is warm, but pleasant. The feeling of well-being comes not only from the wide-opened living room glass doors and the smell of fresh dew from the lawn, but mainly because of this unique moment: even though they may spend months together in a sailboat in Antarctica, it’s almost impossible to get everybody together on a Friday in São Paulo.



Photo: Dominic Barrington

"I MISS THE SMELL OF SNOW. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, BUT WHEN I SMELL IT, I GET THE FEELING THAT ANOTHER PHASE HAS BEEN COMPLETED: PUTTING THE BOAT IN THE ICE REPRESENTS THE END OF A VERY LONG CYCLE, WHICH STARTS WITH THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE BOAT, PASSING THROUGH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND COMMANDING THE TRIP FROM THE STEPS OR OUR HOUSE IN PARATY (RJ) UNTIL IT TOUCHES THE FIRST BLOCK OF ICE" - AMYR KLINK

Marina, the mom, begins the conversation explaining that the family's agendas are not compatible due to the number of activities. No explanation needed, few have not heard of the famous Brazilian navigator Amyr Klink who, between 1984 and 1985, crossed the Atlantic in a rowboat from Namibia (Africa) to Bahia (Brazil). He has not left the ocean ever since, dedicating himself to boatbuilding - including both of his sailboats, Paratii, and Paratii 2, as well as to expeditions and conferences, over 15 per month. Additionally, he has authored five books.

The daughters, in turn, currently divide their time between their studies and speaking engagements - which currently add up to more than 150, specially in schools. Marina handles the family's agenda and works as a professional photographer, and has produced the images of the books they have published. She also manages a blog about coffee (www.1cafeeaconta.com) in which she shares information about coffee to over 30,000 people around the world. However, the number of engagements or physical distance have never been an obstacle to the Klink's family unity.

Distance turned into life project

In spite of being used to being apart, due to Amyr's nautical expeditions which can last over a year, Marina has always made sure that Amyr stayed in touch with their daughters, ever since they were babies. The girls, however, at a very young age realized that their father was away most of the time, but didn't know why. That's when Marina had the idea of taking the kids to see where their father spent so much time. "If they understand the richness of the place it will be easier next time he travels, because they will suffer less with his absence," she thought.

Amyr had just returned from his second polar circumnavigation, in February 2005, when Marina suggested that next time they should take the girls. At first, the father hesitated, but the mom knew it was the right time: "They all know how to manage themselves in the water, if they fall off the boat, for example." With this and other better arguments, Amyr ended up agreeing and in December 2005 the family headed to Antarctica. Laura and Tamara were 8 and Marininha turned 6 on January 1, 2006, the day they crossed Cape Horn - located at the southernmost point of the American continent, where the Atlantic and Pacific oceans meet, the last stretch of inhabited land before Antarctica.

Notes from the first family trip

Once the initial challenges had been overcome, such as establishing a sleep and wake-up routine in a place that never gets dark, Marina busied herself in arousing the girl's interest for the trip - on and off the boat. With the aid of books, they started to learn the names of the animal species they saw along the way. "There are no 'cute seals' or 'cool whales', but rather leopard seals, crabeater seals, sperm whale or orca, which is actually part of the dolphin family," Marina explains. She also paid attention to anything that stood out in the landscape, ice formations, mountains, icebergs, and taught the girls about it. "If they had not been interested, it would have been a tragedy. So, my role in this educational process was to engage them in learning about nature, so they wouldn't argue among themselves but rather be interested in what they were observing."

"Some days on the boat can be very monotonous, when it's very windy or when there is a storm and you can't get out" Amyr explains. Marina tried to keep the girls entertained with activities and games even under the most difficult situations, for example, sliding with socks when going through the Drake Passage - part of the Antarctic Ocean between the frozen continent and South America with the most

difficult navigation conditions in the world. This is a two-day crossing (which can take up to a week sometimes) which gives you the unique feeling that the world is coming to an end, due to the gigantic waves and cutting winds that toss the boat and crew nonstop from side to side.

Besides the games they invented to keep themselves distracted, some talents were revealed along the way. Tamara, for example, discovered she had a gift and a knack for making bread and would wake-up every morning before everyone else to make bread for breakfast. "When you're on a boat, you can't make something just for you, you always have to make it for the entire crew," explains Amyr. "There were 14 people on board and Tamara, an 8-year-old, would make bread for everyone. When Marininha did the dishes, she washed the dishes of all 14 crew members".

Before the journey, Marina gave each child a diary and the task of narrating, in words or drawings, what happened every day. They had to use their own words and could not copy from each other. At first, they didn't like the idea, but as time went by it became a habit they enjoyed. Due to the diaries of this first trip as well as of the following four trips to Antarctica they were able to launch the book "Férias na Antártica" (Holidays in Antarctica), in August 2010.

The girls enjoyed Antarctica so much they didn't want to come home. Laura even cried. Amyr recalls the comment his youngest made: "Oh, daddy, now I know why you spent so much time here."

One year of preparation

Preparations for the Klink family trips to Antarctica begin up to a year in advance. For several months the family is not only busy stocking up the boat with food, water, medicine, fuel, tools and spare parts, but also organizing their professional and school life. Typically, for a trip of little over a month, they carry fuel and supplies for two years. Should something go wrong and they get stuck in the ice, they can easily survive for over six months of arctic winter.

Besides the extensive documentation required, you have to be up to date with the latest technology to facilitate navigation and, especially, map weather conditions. Through NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), Amyr receives weather data and is warned of unexpected events. Also, there is a protocol that must be followed when you go over the 60th latitude south, where the treaty established by IAATO (International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators) becomes effective. IAATO is an international agency that regulates the movement

of boats and people in Antarctica, making activities safer and environmentally responsible. Among other requirements, the protocol requires that a daily log be sent with information about the route, the people and of the events that occurred.

Day to day on the sailboat: a routine of unexpected events

The trip requires constant decision-making. The first, according to Amyr, is making stops safely. Paratii 2 has an anchor, but it is not frequently used. To stop, Amyr uses a mountain climbing technique to pierce the ice and secure the vessel. The coordinator of the trip determines the stopping points, that might be near each other but can take days to reach, depending on weather changes - in Antarctica drastic changes happen in a matter of minutes. So when the boat is moving, Amyr cannot sleep for more than 50 minutes straight.

Once you dock, other measures need to be taken: fill reservoirs and shower, decide on tours and necessary equipment, such as boots, snowshoes, coats, radio, boats, food, supplies and tools needed to get out and back into the ship safety.

The day before any tour, Amyr monitors the wind, atmospheric pressure, the local snow-type - firm or soft - if there are hills or cracks, gathering as much information as possible. "You can get off an inflatable boat to a walk on the other side of an island and never come back. Ice can set in the bay, block the boat, and make it impossible to climb the glacier. A person can die even on a sunny day," explains Amyr. "In Antarctica you have to monitor weather conditions every minute because everything can change in an instant," says Marina.

Once, the family got off the sailboat in two inflatable boats and an Optimist (a small sailboat for children). They anchored the boats in a small beach and set out to explore the area. "When we came back, the wind had changed and all the icebergs had been brought into the bay we were in, there was no way out," recalls Marininha. "Our father got on our little boat, the only one not trapped by the icebergs, and with his feet sticking was desperately and painfully trying to manage the boat and go against the wind to call for help," she adds.

"Every time you get off board, you have to remember that it can last fifteen minutes or fifteen days, so you really have to think before you do anything, because chances of a mistake or of an unexpected event are high," teaches Amyr. You should at least take a radio to communicate with the person on the boat. Marina highlights another lesson learned: "The boat can never be left unattended. A crew member must always stay back." Preferably, someone with experience. So when only the five of them travel, they take turns participating in activities outside Paratii 2. Laura adds: "If you abandon the boat, something can happen and you may not have a place to go back to."

Relationship with animals and the environment

From the first trip to Antarctica the girls started to learn how to recognize and understand how animal life worked in that ecosystem. The first time they saw a skua (bird of prey from Antarctica) stealing eggs from a penguin nest, Marininha got desperate. She wanted to scare the bird, but the mom showed her that there were some skua chicks nearby that she was feeding.



"I MISS WAKING UP AND OPENING THE WINDOW TO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LANDSCAPE. I LIKE KNOWING THAT, OUTSIDE THE BOAT, I'M NOT GOING TO FIND STREETS, BUT SEVERAL ANIMALS SUCH AS WHALES AND PENGUINS." - LAURA KLINK

After seven trips to the frozen continent - Tamara went two more times for winning a national contest of the Brazilian Navy - the three sisters easily explain the rules for living with arctic animals. "There is a rule which requires a minimum five-meter distance between people and animals as to not bother them or transmit diseases", says Laura. There, the animal always has preference: "If you're walking in a line, watching a penguin colony, for example, and one of them decides to cut the line and lie down, everyone has to stop and wait for it to get up or distance yourself and take a new route" pipes in Marininha. "You can't approach the penguins, you have to wait for them to come to you, so we always hope that they will come closer," Clara adds.

According to Amyr, such rules came about after Antarctica became a tourist destination. Today there's a behavior protocol: "If you go to a penguin or seal colony, you can't just leave and go straight to another one, you have to first return to the boat and sanitize your boots, so that you don't



carry microorganisms or bacteria from one place to another," he points out. Tamara explains that people have to go through a device that vacuums your clothes: "It's to make sure that no one transports a new type of microorganism or bacteria there." Although camping in the snow is allowed, everything must be brought back, including waste, it is prohibited to drop even a crumb of bread in the snow. "It's ridiculous to take plastic there, because it can fly away and cause a lot of damage," says Laura.

Amyr used to be against tourism in the region, however today he is in favor of it: "It's a way of educating and transforming each visitor into a kind of ambassador of proper environmental procedures." Amyr explains that despite having rules for moving in Antarctica, not everyone follows them: "There are a lot of unprepared people visiting the continent, and Brazilians are the ones that least adhere to the protocol. Also I've already seen a helicopter from Argentina land on a penguin rookery (nesting site) killing practically an entire generation of animals, and Marina has photographic records of an illegal Japanese boat hunting whales."

Enriching experiences

For Amyr Klink the main learning for his daughters was "the experience of being protagonists of a process and not mere spectators." "They had the privilege of going there on a boat built and run by me



Photo: Liana Giubertoni



Photo: Liana Giubertoni



Photo: Rogério Tomazela

MURAL KLINK

01 - Marina Helena, Marininha (little Marina), the youngest among the sisters.

02 - The day on board begins early with preparations for the bread. There is a rotation of responsibilities. Laura shows that she also takes part in the boat's activities.

03 - Using creativity, Tamara invents recipes using ice collected on the icebergs.

04 - The family's picture with Antarctica as a background.

05 - On board the Paratii 2 sailing boat built by Amyr Klink, the Klink family chooses Antarctica as their vacation's destination.

06 - In Marguerite Bay, the Klink family celebrates reaching the Antarctic peninsula's southern tip successfully.

07 - Amyr Klink in Horseshoe Island, a place that few are able to get to.





from the front door of our house to Antarctica, and that's a unique experience," explains the navigator who has never lost a crewman in more than 25 years of traveling to Antarctica.

The girls agree and highlight the huge difference between traveling with their parents in Paratii 2 and going in tourist ships, as they did a few times. "Even though it's much more comfortable to travel on a tour ship and enjoy the snow from the Jacuzzi, everything is planned out and someone else does the thinking for you", says Marininha.

In Paratii 2, the girls learned with their parents to take responsibility for everything in the boat: food, water, waste, sewer, heating, energy and even how to move around when outside the ship. "Even if Marina and I don't say anything, it creates a sense of belonging in them and they are aware of the problems we face" says Amyr. "We participate more, and even help fix some things, when we can," adds Laura. "Even if we go with the same boat, the same people and follow the same route, it's a different experience every time, it's never the same," states Marininha.

For Marina, the best thing about Antarctica is to be there with the entire family. "I've gone without my family and it's like travelling without a piece of you." Amyr admits that while he also enjoys travelling with the family, for him it is much more stressful: "I can't make a mistake."

Paratii 2 is always surrounded by other boats: "The enriching side of the experience is that we always meet other boats, be they for tourism, scientific

research, or of families with children, and we become friends, there is always an interesting exchange of experiences, which adds to a constant learning process," summarizes the navigator.

Logbooks

Every travel from the Klink family is recorded in logbooks. On the bookshelves of the house you'll find from old hardback notebooks, with entries from Amyr's first trips, to colorful Moleskine notebooks which he orders for everyone. Some have been completed while others are still blank, waiting for the next destination. It is interesting to notice how different people have distinct impressions of the same trip.

Amyr's notebooks contain technical records because, as the Commander, he is responsible for the Log book, the official log of the trip. "I always force myself to write at least one page every day," he says. Other than the entries, you will only find brief notes such as: "very cold" or "today was hot". Despite the laconic tone, his records inspired the five published books. The first, "One Hundred Days Between Sea and Sky," from 1985 narrates the journey across the Atlantic Ocean in a rowboat. With more than 2 million copies sold, the book, according to Amyr, became more famous than the crossing that inspired the book.

Marina Klink prefers making her records on a laptop, because for the most part they are related to the extensive photographic material produces

in each expedition. If at first the photos were just a family record, today they share Antarctica with the world – they illustrate both of Amyr's latest books, the book written by the three girls and the photography book "Antarctica: The Last Frontier," published in 2013.

The logbooks kept by the girls show their growth and development, and exemplify technological transformations. The three sisters, started by drawing and writing in their diaries, and have now moved toward using printed and digital methods. Even though they continue to use their Moleskines, they now share their travels on the www.irmasklink.com.br website. "Not only was the book based on our journals but so are our presentations. We have a logbook, that we started on the site this year, where we write about the trips we've done and things we've learned" says Tamara. Coached by their mother, all three of them are good photographers, though Laura is the one who wins most competitions.

Marina taught the girls that the diary had two objectives: so they would not forget what happened on the trip and to share their experiences with other people. The daughters agree: "The world is very big, it is very difficult for anyone to get to know everything, but if people shared a little about the place they know, everything would be more fun," says Laura.

The return: another journey begins

Having to leave Antarctica is the worst thing that

can happen to a person. "It's depressing," says Amyr. Besides having to leave a beautiful landscape - that looks the same but changes every minute, you have to, once again, cross the Drake Passage, but without the reward you have when going. "On your way there you spend two days vomiting and being tossed from one side to another, but you have the expectation of reaching a beautiful place. On the way back there is nothing" says Marininha.

To avoid feeling down, Marina has always tried to show the kids that the trip does not end when they get back home and unpack. According to her, another trip begins: where the girls can relive everything through the diaries and photos, and more, share with others what they've experienced. "Every time we go to Antarctica it's a different experience, is never the same. It's not like going to Disney, for example, where it's practically impossible to have a unique experience because everybody goes to the same rides and toys. In Antarctica, each person has an experience and a unique perspective," Marininha reasons.

To share these unique experiences, the Klink sisters started doing presentations, and what began as a school project became something they enjoy and are committed to. Marina shares that the first time that they spoke in public was back in 2006. The father was doing a presentation, in which he spoke about the family's journey. Someone from the audience saw the girls and said he would like to hear their impressions from the trip. So the three took the stage and spoke a little about the experience.

The following year the family returned to Antarctica, but this time the girls lost a month of classes in school. In order to not fall behind, Marina met with the school administrators and requested a study routine for the girls. The school put together a series of questions and proposed that when they returned, they could present what they had learned to their peers. The project was so successful that they started getting invitations from other schools, and today the Klink sisters, as they are known, have done over 150 presentations. "A trip like that is like a blank notebook and I try to make them fill it with interesting experiences to share with people, since most will never have the opportunity to live this experience," summarizes Marina.

Why Antarctica?

The Klink family likes to go places where there are few people. Their preference for Antarctica is that it is one of the few places in the world with almost none human interference on the natural environment. "Even in Alaska, you can get a cellphone signal, and find civilization and urbanization, but not in Antarctica," says Marina.

Amyr shares that he always hated social life, having lots of people around, however, his favorite thing in Antarctica today is the social coexistence, because "there you will meet people from all over the world, of various society levels and personalities, but the environment is so strong that it makes everyone equal to each other".

Paratii 2 has become a reference for many who travel to Antarctica: finding the sailboat has become a synonym of being welcomed aboard with heating, food, drinks, and good conversations in the company of Amyr, Marina, Tamara, Laura and Marinha, which undoubtedly are the most friendly family in that continent.

"WHAT I MISS MOST IS THE FEELING OF GETTING THERE. BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME, THE TRIP ITSELF IS COMPLEX, THERE IS A LOT OF PRESSURE DURING THE PREPARATION, IN ORGANIZING WHAT TO TAKE, YOU HAVE TO THINK WHAT YOU WILL USE AND THE POSSIBLE RISKS ONCE YOU ARRIVE. THAT'S WHY IT'S A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT, COMPARABLE TO A BLANK BOOK" - **MARINA BANDEIRA KLINK**



KLINK SISTERS AT THE BOOK FAIR

Tamara, Laura and Marina Helena Klink will be at the Book Fair on September 24, 2016, to share their experiences in Antarctica based on the seven expeditions they made with their parents to the frozen continent.

Since the first trip, in 2006, the daughters of navigator Amyr Klink and photographer Marina Flag Klink have recorded in their diaries, notebooks, drawing books and through photos and videos their impressions of the ecosystem and how things happen in the region, as well as the family's day to day on their sailboat, Paratii 2.

In 2010, they released the book "Holidays in Antarctica", published by Grão, currently in its 9th Edition and adopted by over 70 schools in Brazil. In the book, as well as in their presentations, the Klink sisters lightheartedly share their experiences and learnings from unusual and fun situations that are often dangerous.



Photo: Jairo Goldflus