

THE ONE SHOE DIARIES™

A Journey Across America, One Shoe at a Time.

PRESS KIT

THE ONE SHOE DIARIES™

What started out as a hobby turned into an obsession, and has now transformed into a part of who I am.
— Randall Louis Hamilton

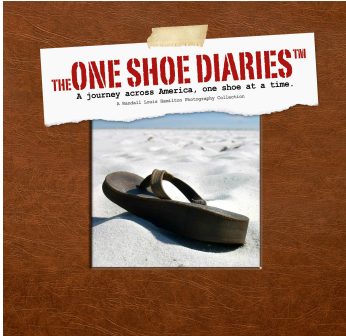
This press kit has been written in first person. It is the viewpoint I tell my stories from. So having said that let me begin my story by telling you what the One Shoe Diaries project is. It is a project compiled of stories and photos entwined together into an ongoing volume of self-published books entitled the One Shoe Diaries. The project has 2 volumes to date, and a website that has taken on a life of its own after my wife Sharon and I were featured on CNN's "News to Me." People from all over the world have been drawn to our stories and images of lost soles and have been sharing their photos and experiences with lost soles in their lives on our forum. This press kit is designed to help bring to life what the One Shoe Diaries is all about. It is about a journey through life that everyone of us embarks on, just not always on the same path. This project let's people see the path we chose to take. We invite you to see the world through our eyes.



WWW.ONESHOEDIARIES.COM

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Volume 1: A Journey Across America, One Shoe at a Time.



In October 2004 my wife Sharon and I lost our residence on Pensacola Beach to Hurricane Ivan. Instead of treating it as a disaster we made this an opportunity for us to pursue our dream of traveling the U.S. in a motor home. During our adventures we noticed numerous lone shoes sitting on the side of the road. We began to get intrigued by how many there were, and the fact that each of those shoes had to have belonged to someone, but who? Were they male or female, young or old, rich or poor? How did it end up alone on the road? The inherent mystery tied to these images is that untold story of each lost shoe. The viewer cannot help but create that story in their mind. An extreme case of imagination going wild after viewing a solo shoe was a woman in California, Julie Ann Shapiro who created an entire novel, *Jen - Zen and the One Shoe Diaries™*, just from seeing a lone flip-flop on the beach while jogging. It was right after the hurricane my obsession with photographing these lost solo shoes started.

Volume 1 mostly follows our cross-country adventure from South Florida to Northern California in our motor home photographing lost soles and documenting our experiences. The journey was filled with many speed bumps, but we take humorous views of our setbacks, because like Jimmy Buffett said, 'if we couldn't laugh, we would all go insane. This volume is about explaining the project and introducing ourselves.



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Volume 2: Friends, Family and Lost Soles

In volume 2 we continued our adventures in the Cruise Master motorhome by circling around the East Coast. We explored from Florida to Ohio to Maryland and back, eventually settling down back in Pensacola where the first journey began. All the while discovering more lost shoes, or what I now call, lost soles.

This volume focuses a little less on the travel aspect, and more on the stories that we want to tell about the people in our lives that mean the most to us, our friends and families. We endured extreme highs and extreme lows during the time frame in which this volume takes place. We were shocked when we found out we had conceived a baby, which turned to elation, only to become despair when it turned into tragedy. Soon after we experienced the passing of our son, Noah Charles Hamilton, amazing and unexplainable events brought true hope back into our lives like a tidal wave. We wrote this volume despite being extremely hard to do so, in order share the experience we had to perhaps help others who have to go through the same horrible experience find hope.



Scott's Cove Marina
Chance, Maryland
N 38.169158
W -75.947065
August 27, 2007

We arrived at our next destination, Deal Island, MD. Located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. It is the home of Sharon's parents. The small island has a population of around 500 and has an interesting maritime history, complete with pirates.

Every year since we have been together we have gone up there to the island to see her family in late August. It is a great time, picking fresh blue crab on the screened-in porch while her pops sings and plays the guitar for us. I just love it there. The outside world seems to disappear.

The trip culminates with the Annual Labor Day Skipjack Race and Festival where we set up a booth and sell photos of the mighty skipjack boats that I have taken over the years. Another long standing tradition that takes place around the community over the weekend is that many of the residents set up yard sales. People from miles around come to rummage for treasures. I love the yard sales.

During the current road trip I had gotten on a vintage camera kit and wanted to go look for cameras at the yard sales but could not because I had to run my booth. I told a couple who stopped by my booth about my dilemma. Apparently they decided to go out and scour the garage sales and buy all the old cameras they could. They brought them to me at the end of the day as a surprise. I wanted to pay them but they would not take money. I finally got them to take a framed photo as a thank you gesture. I was very touched by the generosity and the thoughtfulness of people who barely knew me.

I got a chance to use one of those cameras in the same way. I used my other vintage camera and took this shot of Shoe #175 with a skipjack in the background undergoing restoration.

Captain Art Daniels and the "City of Cristfield"

Embedded in the history of skipjack captains is the legendary Capt. Art Daniels. He has won ??? races and his most recent win I first witnessed he was at the age of 86, on his 67th day, still in working-service. "City of Cristfield" skipjack. There have been fully restored skipjacks that have come down from Baltimore with conformed crews that have lost valiantly to Capt. Art's sailing experience and knowledge of the waters around Deal Island. We have had the pleasure of sailing with him on the City of Cristfield. On board was just Sharon, Rachel, Michael, Amy, Pops and the wind. It was an incredible experience.

