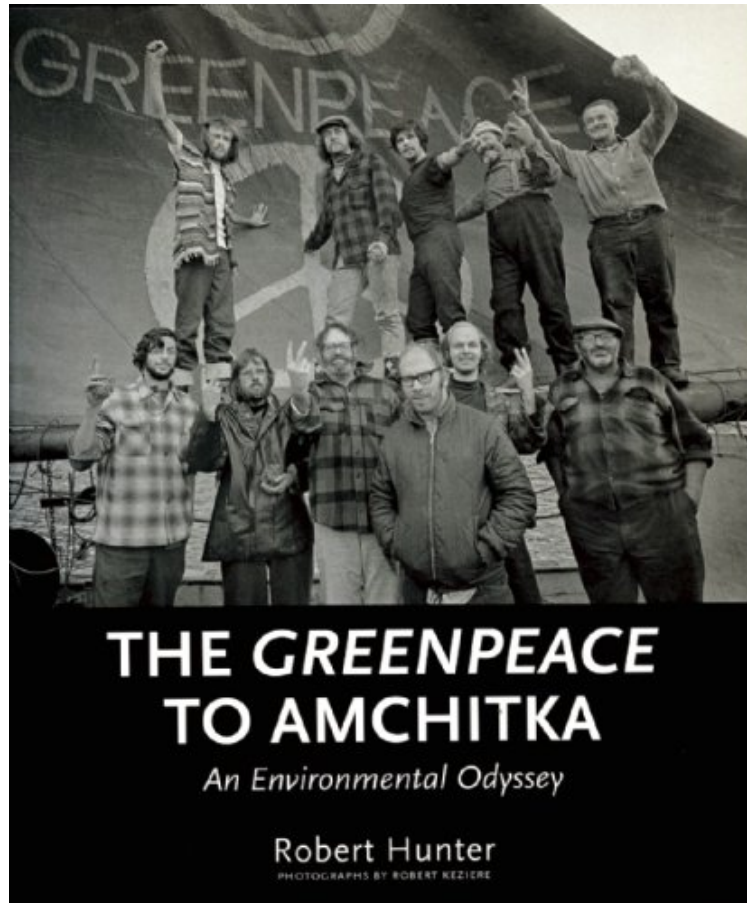


(Read now) The Greenpeace to Amchitka: An Environmental Odyssey

The Greenpeace to Amchitka: An Environmental Odyssey

Robert Hunter

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Robert Hunter : The Greenpeace to Amchitka: An Environmental Odyssey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Greenpeace to Amchitka: An Environmental Odyssey:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Bob Hunter created Greenpeace - read about it here! By Cactus Ed Robert Hunter died May 2nd, 2005, shortly after this book was published. I have every book he ever published; every damn one of them is a trip to read, like you're sitting in a bar with this great storyteller and he cannot stop talking - and you don't want him to! Bob was a great storyteller, and this one about the first-ever Greenpeace voyage (indeed, before there even was a Greenpeace!) is as good as anything he ever wrote. Bob was as alive as any man who walked the earth. An incredibly insightful writer who knew how important "getting the story out" was to the cause. It has been said that without Bob Hunter there never would have been a Greenpeace. I agree totally. He wrote with an intensity and with great humor, but never as an outsider. He was totally engulfed in the great causes of early Greenpeace: the whales and seals, the nuclear testing. And the last book he wrote (2030, written in 2002) was all about global warming, also a great read. Bob will be missed! I was lucky to have met and worked with Bob back in the early Greenpeace days. We shared a sixpack of beer and talked about big-picture ecology, life, love - everything we really

care about. That was Bob Hunter. With his passing I rededicate my life to what Bob was all about. A great guy, a great writer. I recommend all his books - most of which you'll have to find used by now. I treasure his books on my shelf much like I treasure my collection of Edward Abbey books. Those two guys go great together. Peace Bob! Godspeed!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An environmental butterfly effect

By Steven Teasdale

According to the butterfly effect, the flapping of a butterfly's wings in China can ultimately result in a tornado in North America. That is, small variations in initial conditions of a given system can have large and unpredictable effects. The *Greenpeace to Amchitka: An Environmental Odyssey* demonstrates how a small act by a determined group of individuals begat the worldwide environmental organisation known as Greenpeace. In 1972, a group of intrepid peaceniks from western Canada, along with a contemplative engineer and a gruff captain, set sail on a dilapidated forty-year old fishing vessel from Vancouver to Amchitka (a small island in the Aleutians), hoping to force the cancellation of nuclear device test by the U.S. government. The *Greenpeace To Amitchka* is a first-person account by this journey by the late Bob Hunter. Hunter was well known to Torontonians as an environmentalist, newspaper columnist, and television reporter. It is not quite as well known that Hunter was a founding member of Greenpeace and was on the ill-fated voyage of the *Phyllis McCormack* that fall of 1972. That persevering vessel would be renamed en route as the *Greenpeace* as it continued the desperate and ultimately futile voyage. The book is written in a late 1960s "gonzo journalism" style reminiscent of writers such as Hunter S. Thompson. As such, the prose comes across as somewhat dated, yet retains a lively and frenetic feel. The tensions between the picaresque participants are captured with unabashed honesty, and Hunter writes with a mixture of humour and pathos. Like Darwin's *Voyage of the Beagle*, the book provides a vivid description of a remote part of the world that few of us have or ever will see. The book also contains many photographs by Robert Keziere, who perfectly captures the bleak landscapes and stoic countenances of the participants. The voyage was unsuccessful in its initial goal of stopping the nuclear test. Bad weather, frequent delays, harassment by the U.S. Navy, and a rift among the protesters all contributed to the cancellation of the voyage. However, the dejected protesters returned to Vancouver as environmental celebrities, due to the growth of public awareness resulting from media coverage of the voyage. Like the butterfly's wings, this initial futile and seemingly inconsequential event sowed the seed for a trans-national environmental movement... a movement that became Greenpeace.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Journey That Continues to Inspire

By Ma Tianjie

This is a truly allegorical story, an environmental *Moby Dick* that continues to define the organization (and perhaps a movement) that was born of this journey. Bob Hunter's intense (and sometimes freakishly funny) style of storytelling enables the reader to better understand the very origin of the philosophy, strategies, and values embodied in Greenpeace (and other similar organizations), a quite unique branch of the global environmental movement. The strategic use of media, the direct and confrontational tactics, the embracement of deep ecology, the mixture of tough internal tensions with a true camaraderie are some of the recurring themes of this legendary sail. Although today's environmental movement is way beyond the 60s, the book still proves to be refreshingly direct and honest in a time when the movement is increasingly becoming a "special interest" and constituency/donor-oriented.

Greenpeace is known around the world for its activism and education surrounding environmental and biodiversity issues. With a presence in more than 40 countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Greenpeace is undoubtedly a dominant force in the realm of environmental activism. This is the story of how Greenpeace came to be. In September 1971, a small group of activists boarded a small fishing boat in Vancouver, Canada, and headed north towards Amchitka, a tiny island west of Alaska in the Aleutian Islands, where the US government was conducting underground nuclear tests. At that time, protests against nuclear testing were not common, yet the US tests raised genuine concerns: Amchitka is not only the last refuge for endangered wildlife, but is also located in a geologically unstable region, one of the most earthquake-prone areas in the world. The threat of a nuclear-triggered earthquake or tsunami was real. Among the people sardined in the fishing boat were Robert Hunter and Robert Keziere. The boat, named the *Greenpeace* by the small group of men aboard, raced against time as it crashed through the Gulf of Alaska, braving the oncoming winter storms. Three weeks was all they had to reach Amchitka in an attempt to halt the nuclear test. Ultimately, the voyage beset by bad weather, interpersonal tensions and conflicts with US officials was doomed. And yet the legacy of that journey lives on. In this visceral memoir, based on a manuscript originally written over 30 years ago, Robert Hunter vividly depicts the peculiar odyssey that led to the formation of the most powerful environmental organization in the world. Features 40 black and white photographs taken during the voyage by Robert Keziere.

Hunter's Homeric ode to confused and argumentative hippies on the high seas makes fresh and crazy reading. His style is positively feverish. *The Globe Mail* (*The Globe Mail*) *The Greenpeace to Amchitka* brings alive the (mis)adventures and turmoil of an eccentric crew trying to make a difference. David Suzuki Foundation (David Suzuki Fnd.)... Robert Hunter's *The Greenpeace to Amchitka* offers the gonzo goods. The story is essentially a Kerouac and Kesey-inspired riff on a '60's road trip, as interested in the antics of the Merry Pranksterish protagonists themselves as in the larger issues at hand. ...the innocent bravery that it depicts is still inspiring. *Quill Quire* (*Quill Quire*) The reader quickly

develops a huge respect for the quality of Hunter's reportage, and for the raw guts of the folks who first set Greenpeace afloat... Vancouver Sun (Vancouver Sun) From the Publisher Bob Hunter was the official chronicler on board the Greenpeace in 1971. Already a published author and a journalist in the Vancouver Sun newsroom, the task of chronicling the voyage weighed heavy on Robert Hunter, the first president of Greenpeace. "In desperation, I retreated to the Phyllis Cormack," Hunter writes. "Nobody else was aboard, so I could pound my head against the wooden fridge door in the galley and torture myself into telling the story, even though I didn't know what had happened to me, or us." The thought of writing this book gave Hunter an ulcer. The completion of the manuscript cured it. As the official chronicler, he had a responsibility to the cause and the truth. It was a daunting task, and a project that publisher Jack McClelland axed. The manuscript sat bundled in a drawer in the house of Robert Keziere, the trips official photographer, for some thirty years. The Greenpeace to Amchitka: An Environmental Odyssey comes to Arsenal Pulp Press thirty years after its creation, after the infighting and the legacy building, at a point in time when the fears that drove Bob Hunter and the others onto that ship have for the most part come true. This is the story of the birth of Greenpeace, told by the official chronicler and illustrated by the official photographer. Thirty years later, are you ready to hear the truth? About the Author Robert Hunter, co-founder and first president of Greenpeace, was named one of the ten eco-heroes of the 20th century by Time magazine. He is a writer, broadcaster, and speaker on the issues of the environment and climate change. He won a Governor General's Award for his 1991 book Occupied Canada. He lives in Toronto. Robert Keziere was the chief photographer at the Vancouver Art Gallery and for the past twenty years has run a freelance business specializing in the photography of art. He lives in Vancouver.