

A New Lease Of Life for *Dorade* - an S&S Legend

Dorade is a name to conjure with in the world of S&S. Olin and Rod Stephens' grandfather sold the family coal business in 1929, and their father, Roderick Stephens Snr, commissioned S&S Design No. 7 from Rod Jnr, a 52-foot yawl, which became *Dorade*. Her latest owner Matt Brooks plans to re-conjure her glory days....



Dorade - Transpac 2013

Dorade was designed late in 1929 by Olin, construction was overseen by Rod Jnr. and she was launched from the Minneford Yacht Yard in May of 1930 - cost \$28,000 in depression era dollars. Originally regarded as something of a freak with her yawl rig, narrow beam and sharp ends, she silenced her critics with a string of victories never equalled by any racing yacht in deep water.

DORADE'S MAJOR HISTORICAL OCEAN RACING RESULTS

The Bermuda Race

1930: Second in Class B, third overall, winner of All-Amateur Trophy

1932: First in Class B, eighth overall

1934: Fourth in Class A, fourth overall

The Transatlantic Race

1931: First to finish, first overall

The Fastnet Race

1931: First overall

1933: First overall

Oslo – Hanko

1933: First place

The Honolulu Race

1936: First to finish, first in Class B, first overall

1939: Fourth in Class B, ninth overall

1953: Seventh in Class B, eighteenth overall

The Swiftsure Race

1947: First in Class AA, second overall

1948: First in Class AA, second overall

1949: Tenth overall

1950: Third in Class AA, sixth overall

1951: First in Class AA, third overall

1952: First in Class AA, third overall

1954: First in Class AA, sixth overall

1955: Sixth in Class AA, ninth overall

1956: Sixth in Class AA, seventh overall

1957: Eighth in Class AA, 15th overall

1961: Third in Class AA, 47th overall

1963: Third in Class AA, 30th overall

1964: First in Class AA, 18th overall

Source: *Dorade, The History of an Ocean Racing Yacht* by Douglas D. Adkins

Dorade was restored at Cantierre Navale dell'Argentario in Italy in the late 90's and remained in Europe until her return to America in 2006. Following further

restoration, she celebrated her 78th birthday alongside Olin's 100th in 2008.

Her latest and fifteenth owner is Matt Brooks of California. Acquiring *Dorado* in 2010, his goal is for her to once again perform as a highly competitive ocean racer. In 2012 she made 6th in Class in the Newport Bermuda... and in 2013, 77 years after her last Transpac win in the 1936 Honolulu Race, she rolled to victory again winning her division and the King Kalakaua Trophy, awarded to the first corrected overall yacht. Her finishing time of 12 days 5 hours 23 minutes and 18 seconds knocked more than a day off her 1936 time. Corrected time was 5 days 12 hours 20 minutes and 55 seconds, 2½ hours ahead of the second placed modern 70 foot *Pyewacket* (5d 14h 51m 21s).



Matt's idea is to enter *Dorado* in all the races where she was victorious during her early years including, but not limited to, the race across the Atlantic. (a Trans-Atlantic Race in 2015 would be perfect timing.) To accomplish this, he has assembled and is training a crew with the right skills, chemistry and experience to sail

and win in trans-oceanic races. He's also toughening-up *Dorado* herself, readying her for the kind of long-range sailing she hasn't seen in decades, keeping in mind that while she may be game, she is also an eighty year old lady. This has begun with an extensive re-fit in 2010-11.

***DORADO'S* RECENT RESULTS**

<p>Sail of Hope Regatta 2010: 1st Place – Classic Division</p>
<p>Sail of Pride Regatta 2011: 3rd Place – Division 6</p> <p>Opera House Cup 2011: Nantucket Community Sailing Robert H. Tiedeman Memorial Award (Most Authentic Yacht)</p>
<p>Winner – Concours d' Elegance – Vintage Class; 1st Place - Vintage Class</p> <p>Newport Bermuda Race 2012: Winner – American Businessman's Trophy – Royal Bermuda Yacht Club 2nd Place – Class 4 – Anniversary Regatta – Royal Bermuda Yacht Club</p> <p>New York Yacht Club Annual Regatta – Around-the-Island Race 2012: 2nd Place – Classic Class</p> <p>San Francisco Leukemia Cup, San Francisco Yacht Club 2012: 1st Place – Top Fundraiser; 1st Place – Classic Class</p>
<p>Transpacific Race, Transpacific Yacht Club 2013: 1st Overall Corrected Finish - King Kalakaua and Governor of Hawaii Perpetual Trophy; 1st Overall Corrected Finish (Division VIII) - Eugene Overton Perpetual Trophy Sextant and Celestial Navigation - Mark Rudiger Traditional Navigation Perpetual Trophy (Matt Wachowicz); Overall First Corrected Time Navigator - Chuck Ullman Perpetual Trophy (Matt Wachowicz); First Corrected Time Navigator (Division VIII) – Winthrop Johnson Navigator's Perpetual Trophy; First Split Rig - Transpacific Yacht Club Perpetual Trophy</p> <p>Newport Beach to Cabo San Lucas, Newport Harbor Yacht Club 2013: 1st Place – PHRF Class</p> <p>St Maarten Heineken Regatta, St Maarten 2012: 1st Place – Classic Class; Flagship of the St Maarten Heineken Regatta</p> <p>Les Voiles de St-Barth, St Barths 2012: 1st Place – Classic Class</p>



Transpac 2013 - In Mid-Pacific



Grand plans are afoot for 2014-5 with a return to the Europe for the classic yacht season, and hopefully a gathering with the “daughters of *Dorade*” – the crew are hoping to team up with some or all of *Stormy Weather*, *Skylark*, *Argyll*, *Comet* and *Manitou* and to date plans are coming together well.



2014-15 PROGRAMME

Feb 21 2014	RORC Caribbean 600
Mar 31 2014	BVI Spring Regatta
Apr 17 2014	Antigua Classics
Aug 23-31 2014	Corsica Classic Regatta
Sept 20-27 2014	Cannes Classic Regatta
Sept 27 2014	Coupe d’Automne du Yacht Club de France
Sept 27 – Oct 2 2014	Les Voiles de St Tropez
Nov 28 – Dec	RORC Transatlantic Race (Canaries – Caribbean)
2015	Atlantic Ocean Racing Series
Feb 21 – 28 2015	Caribbean 600
Jun 26 – Jul 13 2015	Transatlantic Race
Jul 27 – 31 2015	RYS Bicentennial Regatta
Aug 8 – 15 2015	Cowes Week
Aug 16 – 19 2015	Rolex Fastnet
Oct 16 – 19 2015	Rolex Middle Sea Race
Nov 10 – Dec 9 2015	ARC Las Palmas – St Lucia

To find about more about these plans please do contact the team at mbrooks@dorade.org. And for more information about *Dorade* try and find one of the rare copies of *Dorade: The History of an Ocean Racing Yacht* by Douglas Adkins published by Black Sparrow Books. Or visit www.dorade.org, and have a look at the many videos on YouTube and other sites.

Matt Brooks, *Dorade*,
Fremont, California.

Photos courtesy of Christophe Jouany and Sharon Green

