



DORADE BREAKS RECORD TRANSAT

Across the Pond in 14 days 23 hours

The legendary Sparkman & Stephens yawl *Dorada* has crossed the Atlantic in 14 days and 23 hours beating a record set by Olin and crew 84 years ago.

"This race was no joke," said Matt Brooks, owner and skipper of the yacht that launched young Olin Stephens' career into the stratosphere. "There's no question *Dorada* has seen some gnarly conditions throughout her career, but this was unprecedented."

Gale-force winds and mast-high waves drove the 52-footer (15.9m) to two records for the boat: a harrowing top speed of 19.4 knots; and a 24-hour run of 314 miles.

Brooks bought the boat with his wife Pam in hopes of completing all the great ocean races the boat conquered in her heyday. Two Bermuda Races and a Transpacific Race victory later, the Rolex Transatlantic and the Fastnet were left.

Though GPS-marked "ice gates" kept *Dorada* off the 1931 race's Great Circle Route, competitive spirit had the crew charging to better Olin and Rod Stephens' 17-day, 1-hour, crossing.

"At the beginning, trying to beat the 1931 time wasn't on our minds," said



Above: "She's setting the standard for classic yachts today" - Matt Brooks and crew

navigator Shaun Pammenter. "We sailed 250 more miles than in 1931 because of the gates but we had a lot more wind." He added that he was "horrified" by the rolling of the boat where the boom dragged in the water, the spinnaker pole tip 3ft (90cm) above the water. "We were steering 50 deg off course sometimes."

Dorada finished second in Classics behind the 1916 schooner *Mariette*. The Fastnet is next. "She's setting the standard for classic yachts today," said Brooks.

"The message we want to send to other classic boat owners is to get out there on the race course, because there's a place out there for them."



NEW YORK STATE Replica 8-M sets sail

Not one but two replica Fife 8-Ms will be racing in Oyster Bay, New York. *Invader II* was launched on 13 July from Wooden Boatworks in eastern Long Island and joined the growing fleet of classics for her first race on 23 July. David Howard, 98, Canadian skipper (*second from left*) of the original boat in the 1940s, joined the official christening after racing at Oakcliff Yacht Club. A second *Invader* replica is in the works for match racing.



SANTANA

Bogie and Bacall boat returns

Only a handful of famous American yachts have endured the years, and the rebuilding of *Santana* in Rhode Island is one. The 62-footer (18.9m) was made famous by movie stars Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall who romanced aboard the one-time schooner, then a yawl-rigged S&S design on the West Coast. By the 1970s, she was fallow and abandoned. "In that period the art of shipwrights was dying," said project manager Joe Loughborough of LMI, who came across the boat in California. "No one was brave enough to restore her," as he put it.

A mid-90s restoration brought her racing and daysailing again. Her latest owner is more than a year into a complete reframe and replank. She is due to launch again in January for sea trials and a return to California. "We're re-rigging her as a yawl," said Loughborough, known for leading *Dorada's* return to prominence. "It's basically a blown-up *Dorada* rig."

The boat was commissioned in 1934 as a staysail schooner even though Olin Stephens preferred a yawl rig. After a season or so, the owner relented but kept the schooner main mast leaving a "stout yawl", as Loughborough put it.