

Safety in multihulls course

Sea Coach and Croisières Terre et Mer are now offering training and advanced courses, specially designed for those who are about to (or would like to) sail aboard a cruising catamaran (or trimaran). Courses which are particularly suitable for those who are going to sail aboard a cat for the first time, for example for a charter as a family or amongst friends, as well as for families preparing a longer voyage, such as a sabbatical year. On the programme, you will find above all everything dealing with safety at sea (man overboard – knowledge of equipment), as well as anchoring manoeuvres, multihull specifics, manoeuvres under sail, night sailing, training in 'computerised' navigation, etc... Organised by Xavier Leroy and Gilda Plessis (author of the Vagnon guide to cruising safety), these courses are being organised from January to April 2010 aboard a 15-metre multihull, to help you become self-sufficient for your coming cruises.

Information: info@croisieres-terreetmer.com



America's Cup: Alinghi has begun its training at RAK.

"It's exactly the kind of sea breeze we were hoping for, as it allows us to sail for up to six days a week," declared Brad Butterworth after Alinghi's first outing in the Emirates. The cat is now going to continue its training programme. In parallel, the 'Société Nautique de Genève' (SNG) has confirmed that it has received the present equivalent of the Custom House Registry with the details of the boat belonging to BMW Oracle, the challenger for the 33rd America's Cup. The SNG published the Measurement Procedures last August; they will be used by the measurers to confirm the dimensions of the Defender's and the Challenger's boats, and to check that they conform to the Deed of Gift, in the case of the Challenger, and to the dimensions appearing on the Certificate of Vessel presented with their challenge.



America's Cup part 2: the tone is being raised between the Swiss and the Americans.

On 2nd October, following a seventh legal action by the American challenger, BMW Oracle, Brad Butterworth declared that "Larry Ellison, Russell Coutts and their yacht club, the Golden Gate, seem to believe that the 33rd America's Cup can be won in the courtroom, as their 7th legal action shows." In fact, the ruling by Judge Cahn in the New York Supreme Court in 2008 specified that the America's Cup site should be Valencia, "or any other place chosen by the SNG." Before concluding: "we think this is a new tactic by Larry Ellison and BMW Oracle to avoid meeting us on the water." On 27th October, the GGYC filed an eighth legal action. "BMW Oracle should brush aside its anti-sporting attitude with a good dose of salt water and sunshine, and come and fight for the Cup on the water. Or they should withdraw and let other crews race," Brad Butterworth added...



The latest development to date: the American legal system has finally decided that the Cup cannot take place in the northern hemisphere in February, unless both protagonists are in agreement. Therefore the Cup should take place on 8th February, but not at Ras Al Khaïmad. Perhaps at Valencia? When? How? The saga continues...

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Things are hotting up on Lake Geneva: the foil catamaran SYZ & CO is sailing again.



Summer on Lake Geneva, as elsewhere, is synonymous with light winds. With the return of the autumn, the foil catamaran SYZ & CO has been re-launched and is now ready to attack the speed records. The first flights showed that forces were lower than predicted, and it has been

lightened. The hulls have been lengthened from 32 to 35 feet. "Perfecting such a technological advance takes a long time, with lots of trial and error," Patrick Firmenich explained. This is a completely new area, where everything has still to be invented. We have been able to confirm that the boat is fast. Now all we have to do is optimise it."

The records to beat:

The 'Ruban Bleu': 4h53'19", held by Philippe Cardis, on the D35 Julius Baer (18th October 2007).

The 'Ruban Violet': 7h32'10", held by Alex Schneider Tilt, on Psaros 40 (4th September 2007).

The hour record, at 17.48 knots, by Rodolphe Gautier on the Ventili M2, Star Logistique (17th October 2008).

The kilometre record: 24.0 knots, by Jean-Pierre Ziegert on Mach 2 (Moth with foils), 9th May 2009.

Note that Nicolas Grange's F 40 'Bedat & Co' reached 21.62 knots in September 2002 and still holds the 'Association des Multicoques de Compétition's' hour record reserved for multihulls.

The professionals at work

The professionals never switch off, it's a well-known fact. Here is the proof, with this top manager of a major builder surprised on holiday, reading...Multihulls World! Decency prevents us from revealing his name, but the first reader to recognise Monsieur M... will win a year's subscription to the magazine..

Send the answer to: redaction@multihulls-world.com

