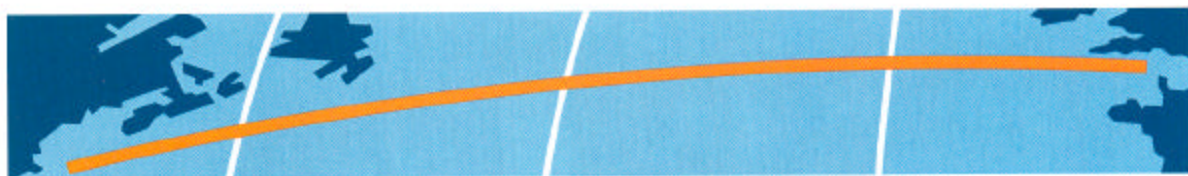


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THE TRANSAT

The North Atlantic Alone

3 Local Sailors In Single-Handed Race Across the Atlantic

By Laurie Fullerton

Over 100 years have passed since Boston's famous son, Captain Joshua Slocum, completed the first-ever solo-circumnavigation of the globe in his 37 foot sloop *Spray*. Covering 46,000 miles in three years with nothing more than a sextant, a compass, and a handful of charts, this legendary sailor has inspired generations of sailors and adventurers.

Consequently, it is a fitting honor that, the 12th running of the epic single-handed Transat (created in 1960 as the OSTAR) will depart from Plymouth, England on May 31 to the U.S.A. and finish at Boston about 10 days later.

The Transat was the first-ever single-handed ocean race, and remains one of the world's most challenging. It places one individual and one boat against the sea.

"Single-handed sailing across any ocean is a precarious business and the North Atlantic can be the cruelest ocean in the world," said sailor Mark Turner, whose Cowes, England organization Offshore Challenge is in charge of this year's Transat. "Sailors will cover 3,000 very tough miles across the ocean and will arrive at the finish line right off Rowe's Wharf. There are very few races in the world like this and it is a remarkable moment to witness a sailor finish such a grueling race."

The Transat, which will bring about 40 sailors from 12 countries to Rowe's Wharf starting in early June, began in 1960 in Plymouth, England when the great sailor and aviator Sir Francis Chichester made a half-crown wager over a pint of beer

Courageous Sailing Center Is Selected as the Charity of Choice for Transat 2004

Offshore Challenges, the British-based organizers of the Transat 2004 announced that a generous portion of their proceeds earned during the Transat 2004 will be donated to Courageous Sailing Center of Boston.

"We are grateful to the Transat for the support of our work with the youth of Boston. And we are thrilled to expose our young sailors to this world-class event and the inspiring individuals involved," said Mary Yntema, Executive Director of Courageous Sailing Center.



Courageous Sailing Center named Charity of Choice for Transat 2004: From left, Rich Wilson of Rockport, Mass., Courageous Sailing Center associate director Bryan Peugh, Joe Harris of Hamilton, Mass., and Kip Stone of Freeport, Maine, at the Boston Harbor Hotel where it was announced that Courageous Sailing Center was the charity of choice for the Transat 2004. Photo by Michael Dwyer

Courageous Sailing Center was established in 1987 as a 501(c)(3) public charity in a joint effort between the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the late South Boston sailing enthusiast Harry McDonough. It was McDonough's dream to create a sailing center that would teach children from all economic and ethnic backgrounds lessons in partnership and trust while delivering "the ultimate sailing experience."

Courageous has since grown into a dynamic, multi-faceted educational and family recreational facility. Students ages 8 to 18 develop an appreciation of their natural environment as they learn to sail on Boston Harbor. Through Courageous' Five-Step Program, young sailors develop essential life skills including leadership, communication, decision-making, and teamwork. Many students return to Courageous as Instructors, gaining valuable work experience while continuing to grow and mature.