



Rich Wilson at the Navigational controls of Great American II.



Great American II

with another British sailing legend Blondie Hasler. In the 1960's everyone thought that it was too dangerous to sail across the Atlantic alone. But these two men took the wager, were joined by four other intrepid sailors, and set out for New York. After 40 days and 3,000 miles Chichester finally arrived first with the other sailors all making it safely.

Today's ultra-modern Open 60s, Open 50 mono-hull and multi-hull yachts can cross the Atlantic Ocean in under ten days. But, like Slocum and Chichester before them they do not know if they will "survive to make a mark on seafaring history."

"There are many who have fought with the elements and lost," said Sir Chay Blyth who won the TransAt in 1976. "The triumphs and the tragedies, the excitements of tackling the elements - there is no greater elation or deeper frustration than those associated with ocean racing."

In the forty-year history of the TransAt, three sailors have been lost at sea.

#### New England sailors to take part

Three New England sailors are among the first American entries to take part in the TransAt: Rich Wilson, 53, of Rockport, Mass. Joe Harris, 44, of Hamilton, Mass. and Kip Stone, 42, of Freeport, Maine.

#### Rich Wilson

Rich Wilson has the most sea miles under him amongst the three regional sailors. Wilson is a Boston-born sailor who resides in Rockport, Mass. He first completed the TransAt in the 1980s and is best known as the skipper of *Great American* (which was lost off Cape Horn) and *Great American II*. He has broken three distance records in his long career as a sailing adventurer and explorer.

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