



Francis Stokes of Moorestown, N.J., won the Bermuda One-Two, a single-handed race from Newport to Bermuda, aboard his 40-foot yacht MOONESHINE with a time of 95 hours, 27 minutes and 58 seconds. His time was the second fastest ever by a yacht under 40 feet, including crossings by fully crewed boats. Here he pulls up to the dock at the St. George's Dinghy and Sports Club, St. George, Bermuda, June 22 just after crossing the finish line.

“Bermuda One-Two”

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In the next issue we will have a personal account of the sole Canadian entrant in the race.

Can single-handed sailors hope to match speeds with fully crewed yachts? Yes, according to the recent performances of two solo racers, at least if they can use a close-hauled reach virtually all the way.

Francis Stokes on his 40-foot Mooneshine and Dave Sturdy sailing his 30-foot Midnight Sun in the Newport to Bermuda “Bermuda One-Two” race which left Newport, June 18, caught a strong westerly and dashed straight down the rhumb line in times that compared favorably

with the best passages by fast fully manned racing machines.

Stokes, of Moorestown, New Jersey, made the crossing in 95 hours, 27 minutes and 58 seconds. “I probably could have been in sooner,” said Stokes afterwards. “But I was scared to death of Bermuda’s reefs. We are not allowed to use loran in this race, so I had to pussy-foot around out there making sure I did not scrape my boat”.

Ten hours behind Stokes, in a time of 105 hours, 15 minutes and 30

seconds, Sturdy, an auto parts manufacturer from Wilmington, North Carolina, arrived.

Their quick voyages raised more than a few eyebrows in Bermuda, where veteran salts have been timing arrivals of entrants in the prestigious Newport-Bermuda Ocean Yacht Race for years. According to those records, Stokes made the second fastest crossing in history by a yacht under 40 feet in length. Only Carleton Mitchell’s 39-foot super yawl Finisterre, three-time “Thrash

to the Onion Patch" winner who made the run in 90 hours, 25 minutes and 55 seconds in 1956, has crossed in a faster time. Stokes' passage was almost 30 minutes faster than that of R. Rubenzahl's Hot Canary, whose 1974 mark was previously the second fastest time for yachts under 40 feet. Finisterre and Hot Canary carried full crews.

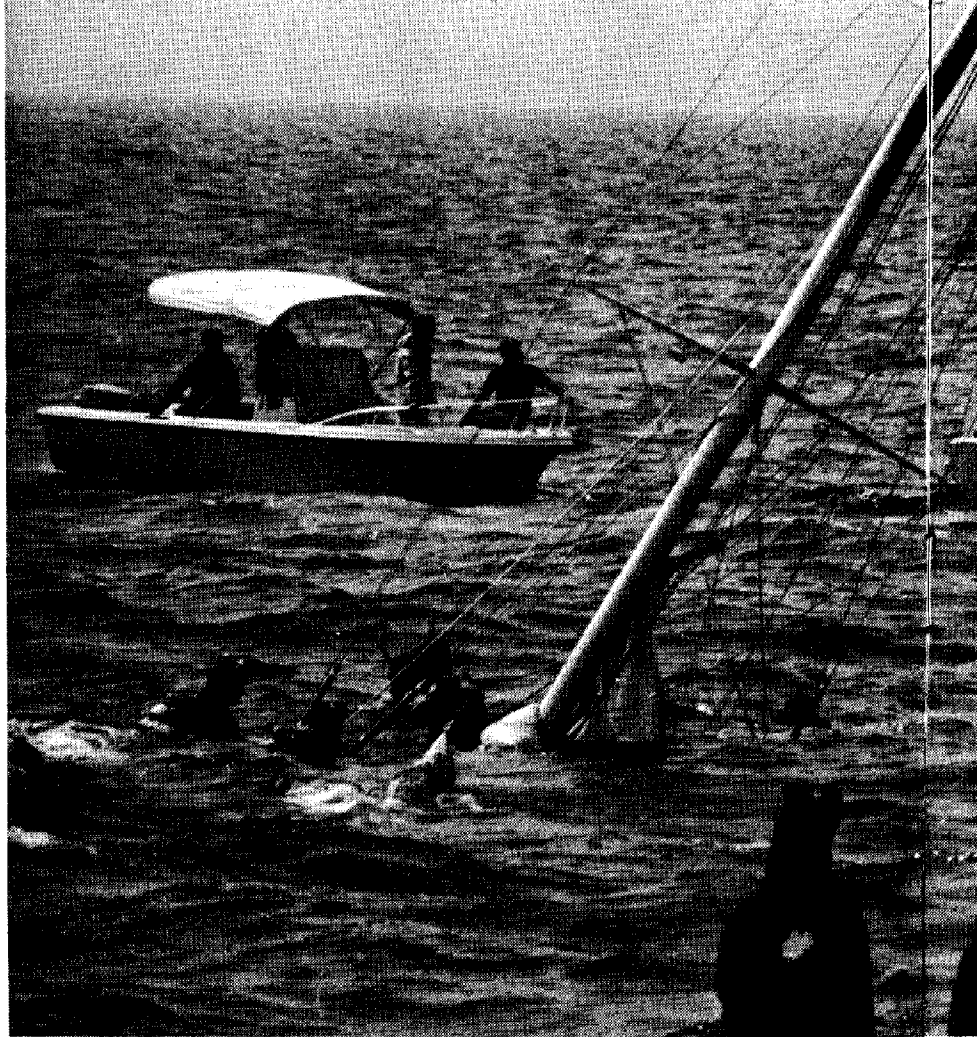
Midnight Sun's performance was equally spectacular. Only 30 feet long and a three-quarter tonner, it is too small to be handicapped. "I have to point 10 or 12 degrees more off wind than a one-tonner does," admits Sturdy.

Long-time Bermuda racing commentator Sam Wharton tried to put Midnight Sun's performance into perspective. "If that boat had a handicap, without doubt it would have had far and away the fastest corrected time crossing ever. I can't conceive how these two sailors (Sturdy and Stokes) could make speeds that yachts with full crews could not match."

Twenty-two hours passed before another of the 22 competing yachts approached the finish line. Then William Homewood's Union Jack and Roger Bartholomew's Sagacious crossed within minutes of each other. "We started together", said Homewood of himself and Bartholomew, "parted company in fog six hours after the race started, and met again at North Rock, eight miles from Bermuda." The two good friends had the only two boats in the race equipped with autohelms and the rivalry was fierce as they raced to the finish. Union Jack narrowly won that contest.

Seven more boats crossed within the next 12 hours.

One boat sailing in with the fleet failed to reach land. John Hunt's 44-foot Crystal Catfish II, the largest boat in the race, crashed into North Rock, eight miles off the coast of Bermuda, and sank. Crystal Catfish was a Nathaniel Herreshoff masterpiece. Built in 1930, with double planked cedar and fir hull and Indian teak decks, the Catfish was one of 12 boats that participated as classic vessels in the Tall Ships-Operation Sail '76 extravaganza last summer. Stripped and rebuilt by Hunt and his son Tim, it was valued at \$150,000. It came to rest on a reef where the surf quickly wore a number of large holes in the hull.



Divers work against time at North Rock, a reef eight miles off Bermuda, to refloat the classic Herreshoff-designed sloop CRYSTAL CATFISH. The yacht was sailed by its owner John Hunt in the Newport-Bermuda single-handed "Bermuda One-Two" race when it crashed into the reefs off Bermuda and sank just before dawn June 25. Hunt was rescued but the \$150,000 yacht wedged on the reefs in 12 feet of water was a total loss.

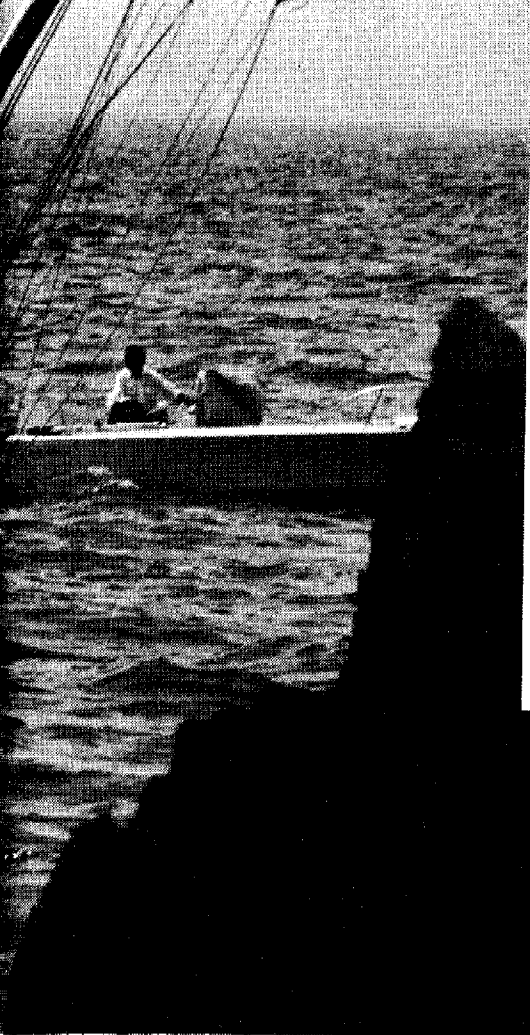
Efforts to refloat it have so far been unsuccessful and the once-proud beauty is expected to be a complete write-off. Hunt was rescued by a non-competing yacht in the area.

The loss of Crystal Catfish touched off a controversy on the island and among the competitors. In question was the position of a U.S. Navy controlled air navigation beacon that had recently been moved. The beacon, not intended for sea navigation, was listed on navigational charts. It's relocation almost 30 miles west was publicized by the Navy but the information failed to reach the competitors. Ten of the 19 sailors reaching Bermuda reported that they found themselves among Bermuda's dangerous reefs and most agreed the moved beacon was a factor in their miscalculations.

All were able to manoeuvre back to safety except Crystal Catfish, race organizer Jerry Cartwright was among those who suddenly found

themselves in trouble. "I read my position from that beacon and Gibb's Hill," said Cartwright. "Because the two beacons are now much closer together, I thought I was much farther from Bermuda than I was. I prepared to get some sleep, but I noticed the day was dawning so I went up to look around before retiring. There was Bermuda right in front of me. I was more than a mile inside the reefs. I may have lost as much as 24 hours racing time working my way back out of the reefs and around the north side of the island."

Hunt told me a similar story. "Around two a.m., I checked the horizon, took a reading, and set my self-steering. I was using a storm trisail and a jib, and since I was well off the island - I thought - I decided to sleep till dawn. So I went below. I was asleep when I hit two hours later. The boat filled with water almost immediately."



RESULTS:

Yacht	Position	Date	Time	Class
<i>Moonshine</i> , F. Stokes	1	22	1227	1
<i>Midnight Sun</i> , D. Sturdy	2	22	2229	111
<i>Union Jack</i> , B. Homewood	3	23	2047	111
<i>Sagacious</i> , R. Bartholomee	4	23	2047	111
<i>Celeste</i> , J. Perez	5	24	0205	111
<i>Poco</i> , B. Lush	6	24	0650	111
<i>Lady Bug</i> , D. Murray	7	24	0715	111
<i>Liberty</i> , C. Carpenter	8	24	0930	111
<i>Jabulisiwe</i> , I. Radford	9	24	1010	111
<i>Dream Weaver</i> , J. Kyle	10	24	1625	11
<i>Sweet Surrender</i> , S. Syrotiak	11	24	2005	111
<i>Sea Quest</i> , M. Smith	12	25	0100	11
<i>Comity</i> , R. West	13	25	0220	111
<i>Chapter XI</i> , J. Cartwright	14	25	1130	1
<i>Nonsuch</i> , J. Sweeney,	15	25	1225	11
<i>Jester</i> , M. Richey	16	26	0700	111
<i>Prodigal</i> , B. Lengyel	17	26	1500	111
<i>Little Dipper</i> , D. Barrett	18	27	0110	111

MIDNIGHT SUN, sailed by Dave Sturdy, of Wilmington, North Carolina, reached the finish line in 105 hours, 15 minutes and 30 seconds in the single-handed leg of the Bermuda One-Two. Bermudian salts agree that the single-handed performance of Sturdy is probably the fastest crossing ever by a 30-footer.

"I will definitely be back when this race is run again in two years, though," he promised.

Two other much publicized solo sailors failed to complete the course. Ann Jackson, a 57-year-old woman trying for her first single-handed crossing, failed to reach Newport in time for the start. One-armed contender William Maney, Jr., who declared he was the "only true single-handed sailor in the race," encountered major problems about half way to Bermuda and turned back to the United States.

The Bermuda One-Two is single-handed to Bermuda and double-handed back to Newport.

Organizers were pleased with the enthusiasm of the racers and have decided to make the Bermuda-One-Two, run for the first time this year, a biennial counterpoint to the Newport-Bermuda Ocean Yacht Race. The next Bermuda One-Two will be held in 1979.

