

A New Challenge For *Great American II!* Hong Kong to New York City

St. Patrick's Day will garner new meaning for sitesALIVE! subscribers next year, as Skipper Rich Wilson and his new sailing mate, prominent businessman and sailor Richard T. du Moulin, set out on the eve of the holiday from Hong Kong Harbor aboard *Great American II*, bound for New York City in quest of a legendary clipper ship's sailing record set in 1849.

Wilson and du Moulin will sail the 53-foot trimaran *GA II* some 15,000 miles, along a route taken by the clipper *Sea Witch* in 1849 as she delivered a cargo of Chinese tea to New York Harbor in a record-shattering 74 days, 14 hours, a mark that has never been surpassed.

If they are successful, this will be the third time that Wilson, founder and president of Ocean Challenge, Inc. and sitesALIVE!, will have toppled a sailing record established during the halcyon sailing era of the great Yankee clippers.

"I've had my eye on these three historic records for years, and it's a great thrill to finally be looking forward to challenging this last one," says Wilson. "It's also another great opportunity to connect with youngsters all over the world through the sitesALIVE! program, this one to be known as *Ocean Challenge Live! Hong Kong to New York.*"

Through the sitesALIVE! Internet educational program, thousands of youngsters in schools across America will be able to link up with *GA II* as she traces *Sea Witch's* historic westward voyage, through the South China Sea, west across the Indian Ocean, rounding

the Cape of Good Hope at the tip of Africa, then north into the Atlantic Ocean and on to New York Harbor.

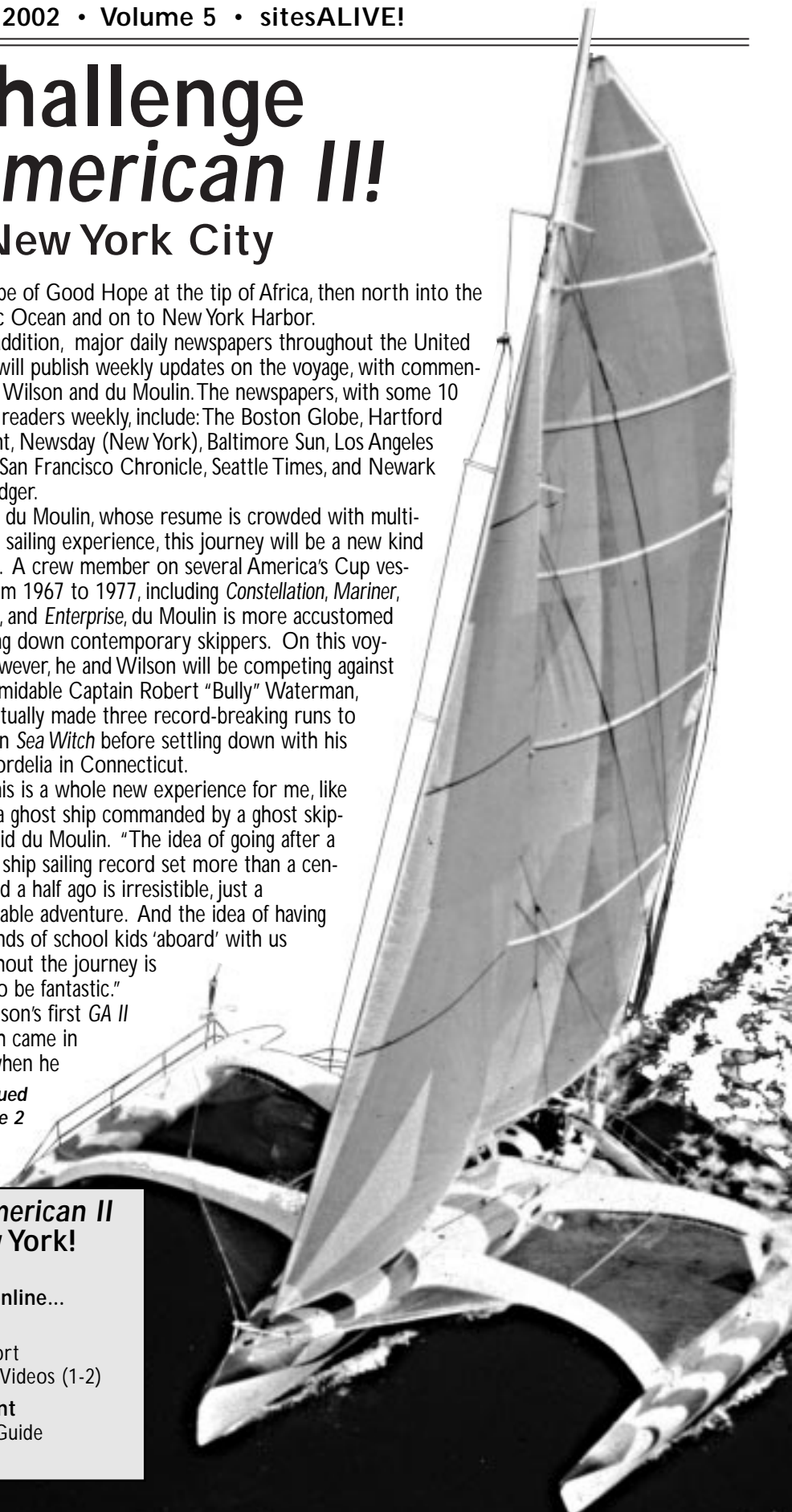
In addition, major daily newspapers throughout the United States will publish weekly updates on the voyage, with commentary by Wilson and du Moulin. The newspapers, with some 10 million readers weekly, include: The Boston Globe, Hartford Courant, Newsday (New York), Baltimore Sun, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Seattle Times, and Newark Star-Ledger.

For du Moulin, whose resume is crowded with multifaceted sailing experience, this journey will be a new kind of race. A crew member on several America's Cup vessels from 1967 to 1977, including *Constellation*, *Mariner*, *Intrepid*, and *Enterprise*, du Moulin is more accustomed to facing down contemporary skippers. On this voyage, however, he and Wilson will be competing against the formidable Captain Robert "Bully" Waterman, who actually made three record-breaking runs to China in *Sea Witch* before settling down with his wife Cordelia in Connecticut.

"This is a whole new experience for me, like racing a ghost ship commanded by a ghost skipper," said du Moulin. "The idea of going after a clipper ship sailing record set more than a century and a half ago is irresistible, just a remarkable adventure. And the idea of having thousands of school kids 'aboard' with us throughout the journey is going to be fantastic."

Wilson's first *GA II* triumph came in 1993 when he

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Two great ways to follow *Great American II* at sea from Hong Kong to New York!

At www.sitesalive.com,
click *Ocean Challenge Live!*, buy License online...

1. FAMILY LICENSE - \$39

Daily: Captain's Log, Ship's Log, Audio Report
Weekly: Essay, Journals (2), Q&A (10), Photos (6-10), Videos (1-2)

2. CLASSROOM LICENSE - \$5/student

Includes Daily & Weekly reports + Teacher's Guide
(11 weekly activities)

The Challenge:

15,000 Miles in 74 Days

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and co-skipper Bill Biewenga sailed from San Francisco, around treacherous Cape Horn, then north to Boston, breaking the pre-Panama Canal record for the voyage set in 1854 by the clipper *Northern Light* during the California Gold Rush.

An earlier attempt to break *Northern Light's* record ended in near disaster when Wilson and his then co-skipper nearly lost their lives as *GA II's* predecessor capsized in high seas. Although the original *Great American* trimaran was lost, its two-man crew was rescued by the crew of a nearby container vessel, *New Zealand Pacific*.

In 2001, Wilson and Biewenga, aboard *GA II*, broke another gold rush sailing record, this one set in 1859 by the clipper *Mandarin*, from New York City to Melbourne, Australia, carrying prospectors to the newly discovered goldfields Down Under.

Since November, 2001, *Great American II* has been in dry dock in Australia awaiting what Wilson expects will be her final globe-girdling trek: "After this voyage, I expect that *Great American II* and myself will, like Captain Bully, find someplace to settle down."



Sea Witch - 1849

A Little Clipper Out of New York

As clipper ships went, *Sea Witch* was a baby. In his "Maritime History of Massachusetts", Samuel Eliot Morison refers to her as "the little

New York clipper ship," but in the same passage he extols her remarkable speed.

"Between June 26 and July 28, 1850, there entered the Golden Gate seventeen vessels from New York and sixteen from Boston, whose average passage was one hundred and fifty-nine days." On July 24, he continues, the "little ship" (173 feet long, 907 tons) sailed into San Francisco Harbor outbound from its South Street mooring in lower Manhattan in just a little over half that time, ninety-seven days, a short-lived record.

Built in New York in 1846, the *Sea Witch's* stunning performance foretold the dawn of the clipper ship era, when Yankee shipyards in New York and Massachusetts built increasingly larger and swifter clipper ships whose names even today are legend, among them *Flying Cloud*, *Sovereign of the Seas*, *Red Jacket*, and *Lightning*, all designed and built in the East Boston shipyard of the redoubtable Donald McKay. These later clippers, especially *Flying Cloud*, repeatedly shattered sailing records as they criss-crossed the oceans. But the Hong Kong to New York speed mark set by "the little New York clipper ship," *Sea Witch*, when it slipped past Sandy Hook into New York Harbor on March 25, 1849, still stands: 74 days, 14 hours.

Wanted: Experienced Sailor ...And We Got One!

About to embark on a 15,000-mile voyage from Hong Kong to New York City, Rich Wilson, skipper of the trimaran *Great American II*, has found the ideal shipmate, a seasoned champion sailor who has strong links to any oil tanker that's likely to appear on the horizon.

Richard du Moulin, former chairman and chief executive officer of Marine Transport Corp., a major owner and operator of, US flag cargo vessels, is also the ex-chairman of the International Tanker Owners Organization (INTERTANKO), whose combined fleet numbers more than 2,000 oil tankers. He is currently president of Intrepid Shipping Co. which he and a partner organized in 2001.

A lifelong sailor, du Moulin's maritime resume is as impressive as his business background. Active in the international match race circuit as a skipper, among his many nautical achievements are:

- In June, 2002, with crew mate Peter Rugg, won the double-handed sailing competition in the 700-mile Newport-Bermuda Ocean Race.
- Participated in four America's Cup races, three as a crew member and one as a coach.
- Captured the Patriots Cup at Newport, the United Kingdom's

Sigma Cup, and the Glen Cairn Cup of Long Island Sound "several times."

- Sailed in 17 Newport-Bermuda Races, chiefly as skipper or navigator.
- Twice sailed in trans-Atlantic races, as a crew member aboard *Ondine* in 1968, and skipper/navigator aboard *Charisma* in 1972.



Richard T. du Moulin

For the past seven years du Moulin has run Junior Safety at Sea Seminars, with over 1000 junior sailors trained in safety programs. He is also Rear Commodore of the Storm Trysail Club, an organization dedicated to ocean racing and safety at sea, as well as a member of the New York Yacht Club.

A graduate of Dartmouth College with an MBA from Harvard, du Moulin currently serves on the boards of the American Board of Shipping, Seamen's Church Institute of New York/New Jersey, and as chairman of INTERTANKO's American Panel.

Meet Paul Sedgwick — Another Teaching Icon

One of the joys of sitesALIVE! is connecting with teachers who are committed to finding new ways to engage their students, teachers who provide not only instruction but inspiration as well.

While preparing the newest sitesALIVE! program, Bluegrass Live! we discovered another of these classroom icons. He's Paul Sedgwick, 42, a drama teacher at the James W. Hennigan Elementary School in Boston's Jamaica Plain section. A banjo enthusiast since he was 13 years old, Sedgwick's writings and banjo playing are featured in the Bluegrass Live! program. Both his playing and writing on the banjo, he admits, have long been an obsession.

"In high school, when ever I had to write a research paper for English class or a theater history class, I would write about the history of the banjo," he laughs. Sedgwick's interest in the banjo transcends mere sing-along plucking; he's a bona fide banjo scholar and professional musician. Among his academic credentials is a degree in Bluegrass Music Studies from South Plains College in Levelland, Texas. He also plays with Wayne Potash

and the Music Fun Band, a children's band that performs in the Greater Boston area.

Sedgwick grew up in San Diego, California, where his father was the head of veterinary medicine at the world-renowned San Diego Zoo. As it happened, the head zoo keeper, a friend of the Sedgwick family, was a devoted country, folk, and Bluegrass musician from Texas. And, as it happened, the zoo keeper's son was an accomplished 5-string banjo player.

"He was my first banjo teacher," Sedgwick recalls. "Without a real live musician to hang out with and learn from, my adoration of the banjo would never have been able to blossom into a full-fledged obsession."

A resident of Jamaica Plain, Sedgwick and his wife Diane have three children, 5-year-old twin daughters, Charlotte and Virginia, and a 15-month-old son, Adam.



Paul Sedgwick

US History Live! My Favorite Place

By Mykin Johnson
Proctor Academy Senior

Of all the places we have visited, my favorite was Cumberland Island, Georgia. The whole island was amazing. The trees were so old and mysterious. The way you could see for miles along the beach and the clusters of shells reminded me of where I used to live. There was something enchanting about the broken-down mansion, with wild horses in front that just continued with their business when you walked by. The sandy dunes were also beautiful. Perfectly formed, they seemed to go on forever, like a desert, before opening up on a long beach. The way the trees were entwined together reminded me of a jungle.

I would most definitely return to Cumberland Island. There were so many paths and different options for adventure. Cumberland Island was almost unreal to

News From Our sitesALIVE! Programs

me. It seemed infused with beauty and mystery, from the sharks' teeth we found along the trails to the wild horses and the tangled trees that led to the never-ending beach.

Cumberland Island was my absolute favorite stop on this trip.



Wild horses on Cumberland Island.

New sitesALIVE! Foundation Launches Fund- raising Drive

A fund-raising campaign designed to provide "seed money" for the recently created sitesALIVE! Foundation, Inc., was the first order of business at the Foundation Board of Trustees kick-off meeting on Oct. 30.

The primary goal of the inaugural fund-raising effort is to raise \$250,000 by the end of the Foundation's fiscal year on June 30, 2003, and to identify "Founding Donors" committed to the Foundation's start-up and subsequent activities.

The initial funding will be used to support the Foundation's daily operations, including the hiring of a Foundation executive director and clerical staff, funding of training activities and fund raising campaigns, and to provide financial assistance to cash-strapped schools interested in online educational programs.

Besides contributions from Founding Donors and other individuals, funds will also be sought from corporations, foundations, and government agencies.

"We hope that people who have recognized the importance of bringing classrooms into the 21st century via the Internet will consider a year-end gift to support this vital new initiative," said Rich Wilson, sitesALIVE! founder and president. "These funds will enable us to provide teacher training workshops, as well as assistance to a growing list of budget-constrained schools that are eager to incorporate online educational programs into their curriculums."

In other board business, the following Foundation officers were elected: Rich Wilson, president; Thomas Connelly, treasurer; and Andi Walgren, clerk. Other board members are Rafe Parker, formerly president of Sea Education Association; and Fred Fantini, a member of the Cambridge School Board.

Filmmakers Join sitesALIVE! in Documentary Bid

With an eye toward a nationally televised documentary of the upcoming Hong Kong to New York journey of *Great American II*, sitesALIVE! has recruited two prominent filmmakers to pitch the historic journey to major television outlets, including National Geographic, the Discovery Channel, and NOVA.

Executive Producer Ronald Schneier, founder and president of Eagle Canyon Entertainment, LLC, and Producer/Director/Writer Jonathan Grupper, both of whom have spearheaded numerous television productions, have joined sitesALIVE!'s Rich Wilson in a team effort to develop a feature-length documentary

film that will trace the voyage of *GA II* in its quest to break the venerable sailing record set by the clipper *Sea Witch* more than a century and a half ago.

As executive vice president of sales and marketing for A&E Network, Schneier oversaw domestic affiliate sales and national advertising sales for A&E Network, History Channel, Biography Channel, and History International. He also developed "Today's Business," distributed by Buena Vista. Grupper's extensive film credits include "Stephen Hawkings' Universe" for BBC; "This Week in History" for the History Channel; "Niagara Falls: Raging Rapids" for the

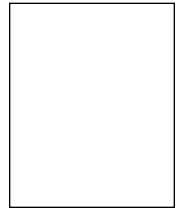
Discovery Channel. He also has written 50 films for National Geographic Explorer and authored six children's books.

Commenting on the plans for a proposed documentary, Wilson said, "The lore of the clipper *Sea Witch*, together with the story of *Great American II*, coupled with the educational goals of sitesALIVE! is a natural for a documentary film — exciting and educational at the same time. The wide experience of Ron and Jonathan in TV production is an invaluable asset for sitesALIVE! as we attempt to tell our unique saga in more and more media."



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New Partnership Forged With AOL@SCHOOL™

AOL@SCHOOL, America Online's educational portal, has taken on sitesALIVE! as a partner to be featured on its website. Various sitesALIVE! programs will be excerpted on the site, accessed by the keyword entry "sitesalive."

This new partnership will enable sitesALIVE! to display samples of its programs to AOL's wide subscriber

audience. Some 12,000 schools currently are enrolled in AOL@SCHOOL's online educational service, and the website has been recording more than 300,000 individual family "hits" a month. In addition, more than 7,000 teachers nationwide receive AOL@SCHOOL's regular e-mail newsletter.

Rich Wilson, sitesALIVE! founder and president, recently attended the

annual conference of the National School Board Association in Dallas, where AOL announced the company's new educational partnerships.

"This is a great opportunity for sitesALIVE! to spread our message," said Rich. "Hundreds of thousands of AOL subscribers now will have access to a sampling of what sitesALIVE! has to offer."

sitesALIVE! the K-12 internet subscription site connecting students and teachers in classrooms with field school expeditions and adventures worldwide. sitesALIVE! is a registered trademark of Ocean Challenge, Inc, incorporated in Massachusetts in 1991.

For more information about sitesALIVE! as well as how to become a subscriber, please call 617.248.9777, 1-800-890-3049 or email: ccollins@sitesalive.com