

NEXT MONTH IN SAIL

AMERICA'S CUP

In our April preview, we bring you the people, the boats, the odds, and the venue of the 32nd America's Cup. Headquartered on the Mediterranean coast in Valencia, Spain, this first-ever Cup in Europe has already produced additional firsts:



The Acts that took the fleet on tour.

Colorful entries from China, Germany, and South Africa.

Billionaires tailing and grinding in the trenches.

Tapas and vino tinto as standard fare, and a language other than English in the cafés surrounding Port America's Cup.

From April to July, look to SAIL and our online companion, www.sailmagazine.com, to be your guide to Valencia, the racing, and the changing face of America's Cup competition. Can the defender, Alinghi, hang on? We'll be on the water and on the front lines to find out.



Michael Perham under way

FOR THE RECORD

Fourteen-year-old Michael Perham of Hertfordshire, England, became the youngest person to sail singlehanded across the Atlantic when he reached Antigua on January 3. Michael made the 3,500-mile voyage from Gibraltar in just over six weeks aboard *Cheeky Monkey*, a Tide 28—a boat he helped design with Nigel Harley and his father, Peter Perham, an experienced sailor. Throughout the voyage, Michael kept in radio contact with his father, who followed in his own boat. Equipment failures requiring stops in the Canaries and Cape Verde Islands delayed the trip. Michael began sailing at age seven and had studied for the RYA Yachtmaster exam and clocked several thousand sea miles before his record attempt. **▲** Rebecca Waters



Mr. Oxford Boat Yard

» I HESITATED BEFORE THROWING A HEAVY LINE INTO THE THIN OUTSTRETCHED arms of the older fellow standing at the head of our slip. But he caught the line, wrapped it deftly around a cleat, and beckoned for the next one. This was our first visit to the quiet Chesapeake Bay town of Oxford, Maryland, and we had just met James Robert “Just call me Jimmy” Taylor, Oxford Boat Yard’s 95-year-old dockmaster and living legend.

We soon learned that Jimmy began working at the boatyard in 1931 after moving from the family farm in Virginia. At a 95th-birthday party and crab feast, yard manager Braxton Strueber told a typical Jimmy story about watching him lift a 45-pound CQR from the deck of a hauled-out boat, toss it over his shoulder, and scramble down a ladder and across the gravel yard. He was 85 at the time.

Although he rarely shows such feats of strength nowadays, Jimmy’s conversations often come around to the theme of people helping people, out of kindness: He says, “If I see that someone needs a hand, I go over and help them. At the end they say, ‘Well, how can I pay you?’ And I tell them, ‘You just did. Your smile was my paycheck.’” **▲** Jennifer Goff and J. Holt

PHOTOS BY JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES (TOP AND INSET); JENNIFER GOFF (BOTTOM)