

## **Farr 60 Carrera Crushes Annapolis to Newport Record**

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The Farr 60 *Carrera* finished the Annapolis to Newport Race at 7 a.m. June 18, crushing the race record set just two years ago by George Collins's Santa Cruz 70 *Chessie Racing*. About 23 minutes behind *Carrera* was Bob Towse's R/P 67 *Blue Yankee*, and roughly an hour behind them was Fred Detwiler's Andrews 70 *Trader*. Based on initial reports from Newport, it appears that *Chessie's* 1999 record was topped by nearly five hours.

*Carrera* is owned by Connecticut sailor Joe Dockery, but the owner was unable to participate in the Annapolis to Newport Race. In his stead, the team was led by Annapolis-based professional sailor Chris Larson. Larson recruited a stellar team including Mark Rudiger, Whitbread-winning navigator in 1997-98 aboard *EF Language*, as well as *Brunel Synergy* skipper Roy Heiner. The two are co-skippers of the Assa Abloy Volvo Ocean Race team.

Annapolis-based professional sailor Andrew Scott sailed aboard *Carrera* and reports from Newport, "We blasted down the Bay under spinnaker and reached Chesapeake Light in about 12 hours. From there we turned up the coast and jib reached in increasing northwest breeze." The fleet benefited from the remnants of Tropical Storm Allison which lingered off the mouth of the Chesapeake on start day and was compressed and pushed northeast by a cold front overnight Saturday and into Sunday. The interaction between the two features provided record-breaking conditions.

Scott tells of strong breezes off the mouth of the Delaware Bay and off Cape May. The top recorded windspeed was 54 knots, and *Carrerasaw* 48 knots-plus for an hour straight. During one five-hour stretch Sunday, *Carrera* sailed under storm trysail and storm jib. Once the big breeze backed off the team continued north and east in ever free conditions, finishing this morning in 17 knots of breeze under jib top and full main.

Scott says that while a number of sailors spent time at the helm of the Farr 60 Larson and Heiner were by far the most active helmsmen. "They both did a great job," he says. "Heiner was unbelievable. When it was really nasty he was so much better than anyone else. I've never seen anything like it."

The 15-person team aboard *Carrera* also included Annapolis sailor Pat Shaughnessy, a longtime designer with Farr Yacht Design.