

The Dutchman's Log



Catch A Rising Star!

Here in Maine, we've got this neighbor, just out to sea and down to Boothbay, and some say, heck, a lot of people say she may be the new star of American yacht racing and the hero U.S. sailing could use about now.

Cole Brauer's her name. She recently completed the Global Solo Challenge, writing her name into sailing history as the first American woman to sail solo, non-stop, and unassisted around the planet.

The GSC is a pursuit-start race with slower boats starting days and weeks before faster ones. And based on elapsed time, second-place Brauer's Class40 racer *First Light* actually beat first-place Philippe Delmare's Actual 46 *Mowgli* by 17 days—that's how dramatic the handicap difference can be over 27,000 miles.

You'll find lots of coverage of Cole's GSC performance. She documented practically mile after nautical mile on Instagram, amassing an incredible 400,000 followers. Her reports from sea sizzled and sparkled with her can-do attitude as she singlehandedly redefined the image of a world-class racing yachtsperson. Contrast this new challenger at a self-described "five foot nothing" to the towering heroes of the past. Like Ted Turner, Dennis Conner, John Bertram—you know: guys.

Without question, Brauer has earned her spot. Her solo circumnavigation was not a whim. Just now about to turn 30, she decided years ago to pursue professional status as an ocean racer.

And the Global Solo Challenge was hardly her first time at the rodeo.

She caught the sailing bug as a member of the University of Hawaii's varsity Rainbow Wahine sailing team and went on to race in a variety of sailing circuits, from distance racing to Etchells, J/70s, and Melges 24s.

Last year, you could say she kind of won the 24th Biennial Bermuda One-Two Yacht Race. On the first solo leg from Newport, she did an 18-hour horizon job on the second-place finisher, becoming the first woman skipper to win that leg. And then became the first woman skipper, with her crewmate Cat Chimney, to win the doublehanded return leg, capturing, of course, the PHRF award for both legs combined. And adding to her winnings, she took home hardware for Class One: Both Legs; Leg One Sportsmanship; Top Female Solo (natch!); Line Honors Both Legs; and the Top Navigators Award.

A year later, her Instagram feed featured a video of her headed for the Global Solo Challenge finish line at La Coruña, Spain, standing on the stern of First Light at dawn, a lit flare blazing in each hand, destined to take second place honors in a matter of minutes. Watch it here: [First Light Finishes!](#)

So yeah, Cole Brauer is one of the was-up-and-coming-and-now-certifiable rock stars in our local sailing neighborhood. Whether sailboat racing is your cup of tea or not, we recommend keeping Cole Brauer on your radar. International yacht racer, social media innovator, culturally disruptive badass—this young American is going places!

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Get Your Varnishing Act Together

Got wood? Give your boat's wooden surfaces the protection they need. Here's a lightning-round review of the Epifanes family of varnish formulas for every job.



Clear Varnish: Our classic, super-high-gloss varnish with extra UV filter for maximum sun protection. For all woods.

Woodfinish Gloss: Clear, high-gloss “breathing” finish. UV filters, great for teak. Sanding not required (72 hrs.)

Woodfinish Matte: A rich, satin exterior top coat over Woodfinish Gloss or Clear. UV filters. Recoat in 12 hours.

Rapid Clear: UV-resistant, quick-drying semi-gloss finish with excellent adhesion to teak and other oily woods.

Rapidcoat: Teak tinted! Same as Rapid Clear with added stain to smooth out color variations in the wood.

Rubbed Effect Varnish: Satin! Quick-drying interior protection, impervious to alcohol and household cleansers.

Poly-urethane Clear Gloss: Two-part. Maximum outdoor durability, scratch-resistant, UV filters.

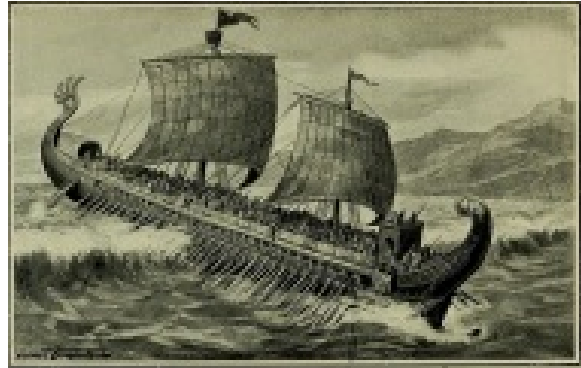
Perfect for plywood.

Poly-urethane Clear Satin: Two-part. Durable, scratch-resistant, low-glare finish. Superior interior protection.

PP Varnish Extra: Two-part, quick build, quick-drying (2-3 hrs.) pro formula. High-gloss flexibility and hardness in one.

THE OLD SALTS SAY

The Ship of Theseus *(Or what can happen when you don't varnish)*



This dates back to really old salts. Ancient history stuff. Here's the question: Victorious in Crete, Theseus and his crew returned to Athens in his ship, which the Athenians chose to preserve as a floating tribute. Over hundreds of years, as each plank became rotten, the Greeks rebuilt the boat, carefully replacing every punky plank. At some point, none of the original wood remains. Sooooo...was this still the Ship of Theseus? Hmmmm?



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