

World Sailing Speed Record Council

Annual Report; 2022

Fifty years of authenticating speed records under sail – that is the proud boast of the WSSR Council. During this period many of the accomplishments accorded to the WSSR itself are interesting and impressive. For example the Outright World Sailing Speed Record has been broken 27 times, the speed increasing from 26.3 kts in 1972 to 65.45 kts today; the Women's record broken 18 times from 21 kts to 50.43 kts; the Windsurfer which, when it appeared in 1977, amazed us all with a record speed of 19.10 kts, has now broken the record 22 times over the years until the current speed of 53.27 kts has been attained.

We have been ratifying the Ocean Passage Records for 34 years, as we took over this facet of our responsibilities in 1988 but, in that time, we have ratified 273 World Records over 31 different approved courses; undoubtedly the ultimate record course is the Around the World and this record has been broken 9 times from the record of 79 days in 1993 to 40 days today.

I said in my last report how the incidence of Covid 19 has affected the sport and hoped that restrictions might be relaxed in the subsequent year. This seems to have come to pass and we have been able to return to more normal methods of operating, with 9 new World Records out of a total of 14 attempts during the year. The Around Turkey was a new route established with the cooperation of the Turkish Sailing Federation, and should be of interest to East Mediterranean sailors. The route starts at the North of Turkey, at the Border with Georgia, passed through 4 seas –Black Sea/Marmara Sea/Aegean Sea/ Mediterranean Sea, finishing in the South of Turkey at Iskenderun.

It was very good to see that two of the regular Speed Sailing events got back onto the calendar after the Covid breaks. The organisers had to overcome many difficulties in order to achieve this and much credit is due to them. Top speeds have reached a plateau somewhat, doubtless due to the enforced inactivity but, no doubt, improvements in technique and equipment will raise the record speeds again.

I have pleasure therefore in submitting our 2022 report, together with our list of attempts during the past year, to World Sailing.

Claude Breton.
Chairman. World Sailing Speed Record Council.

LIST OF RECORDS AND ATTEMPTS SINCE THE LAST LIST PRESENTED IN 2021

347	21/09/21	Chicago to Mackinac	"Arete" Rick Warner USA	Record 12h 30m 7s
348	27/01/22	Around the World	"Kiwi Spirit" Stanley Paris. USA	Attempt Abandoned.
349	09/04/22	Antigua to Newport	"Argo" Jason Carroll. USA	Record 3d 16m 30s
350	22/04/22	Cowes/Dinard Singlehanded	"Multibo" FRA Thibaut Vauchel-Camus.	Record 6h 11m 58s
351	05/05/22	Bermuda/Plymouth 60ft Monohull	"Rosalba" Richard Tolkien, GBR	Record 12d 3h 12m 9s
352	29/05/22	Marseilles to Carthage	"SVR Lazartigue" Francois Gabart. FRA	Record 13h 55m 37s
353	25/05/22	Antarctica Cup Racetrack	"Climate Action Now" Lisa Blair. AUS	Record 92d 18h 21m 22s
354	02/06/22	Cowes/Dinard 20ft Performance	"Nacra 20" Dominique Tabalet. FRA	Record 11h 22m 47s
355	02/06/22	Around Australia 21 ft Monohull	"Waterline" Xavier Doerr. AUS	Attempt abandoned
356	10/06/22	Around Turkey 9.99m Jeanneau	"Suana" Tolga Pamir. TUR	Record 11d 20h 23m
357	26/07/22	Cowes/Dinard 20ft Performance	"Team Bourgnon" Yvan Bourgnon. FRA	Attempt abandoned.
358	17/08/22	Around the World via Antarctica	"Antarctic Lab" Norbert Koch. AUT	Attempt abandoned
359	26/08/22	Transatlantic 6.5m Mini.	"Cocotopia" Jay Thompson. USA	Attempt abandoned
360	28/08/22	Cowes/Dinard 20ft Performance	"Team Bourgnon" Yvan Bourgnon. FRA	Record. To be ratified.

500 Metre and Nautical Mile Outright Speed Events

361	October/November 2021	Luderitz, NAM	National Records
362	May/June 2022	La Palme. FRA	National Record.