



Defending their Multihull race record will be Lloyd Thornburg's MOD70, Phaedo<sup>3</sup> – RORC Caribbean 600 © RORC / James Mitchell

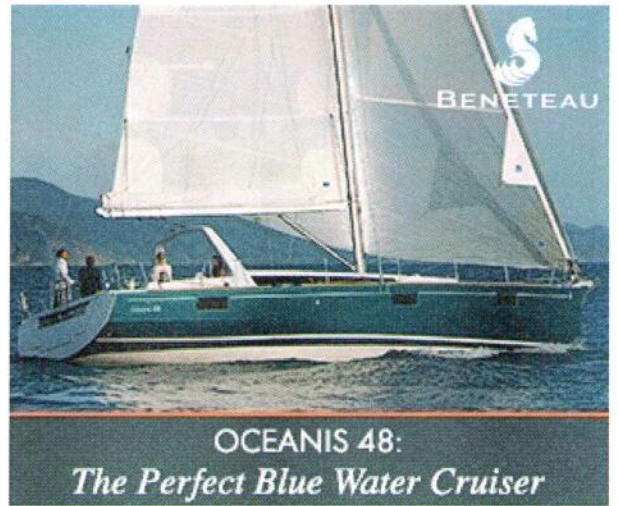
(Isle of Wight) Race. We had a good start but found our competition rolling over the top of us. So we made an early tack out and then changed a few settings and found ourselves making our best run out of the Solent yet as a team-that and a heroic layline and huge hull fly at the Needles and we won the day.

The most challenging and interesting driving on the MOD70, other than prestart and starting, is downwind VMG running. Some days, but not always, one is able to keep up very good boatspeed at deep angles [while] never losing the apparent wind.

I think the most gratifying time is when you get off the helm after a couple of hours offshore and really feel like you kept the boat trucking along the entire session, especially in large seas at night.

### **What about the scary bits? Can you tell us what it's like to be driving when things almost went pear-shaped?**

We try and approach the limits of the boat but not exceed them. Sometimes the rudder cavitates at very high speed downwind. This is quite frightening but requires a quick shake on the helm and a calm head. The few times we have nearly lost the boat it was pretty scary but then the team was quick to immediately get the boat back up



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Multihull Line Honours for Lloyd Thornburg's MOD70, Phaedo3 - RORC Caribbean 600 © Ted Martin/RORC

**How did you get started, who were your early heroes and what kinds of boats lead you to own a MOD70?**

I started sailing by reading books about adventures of other sailors and cruisers who self-published books about their adventures. I didn't really learn how to sail until I was 22 on a Soiling the aptly name CHAOS. On the path to the MOD70, I went through several cruising mono-hulls under 40', then the original *Phaedo*, the Gunboat 66, which I originally built for a world cruise but then wound up racing, which lead to more racing, which somehow led to a MOD70.

**Can you tell me about your goals when you first bought *Phaedo3*, as well as your goals now? What's been accomplished and what still remains unclaimed?**

The original goal was to take the Caribbean 600 race record and to get outright line honors in the NYYC Transatlantic Race and participate in the Fastnet [Race]. We quickly accomplished all the original goals of our program. Since then, we have expanded and faced stronger and stronger competition, which has made the sailing even more rewarding. This summer we would like to sail well in the Transpac and Cabo Race.

**As a helmsman, what are the best moments holding the tillers? Can you describe a perfect helm session on the boat?**

