Race to celebrate Dorade’s return

The Castine Yacht Club and Sparkman & Stephens will host a celebration in the Maine port Aug. 1 of the launching of the new S&S designed 56-foot sloop Anna and the return to our shores of its historic precursor, Dorade.

Anna, built by Brooklin Boat Yard for former Veryfine juice CEO Sam Rowse, is reminiscent above the waterline of the classic S&S design Stormy Weather, and traces its roots to the famous yacht Dorade.

The 52-foot yawl Dorade, designed in 1929, launched the design career of Olin Stephens, who celebrated his 99th birthday April 13. In 1931 Stephens and his brother, Rod, sailed Dorade to victory in the Trans-Atlantic Race from Newport to England, beating the fleet of larger rivals by more than two days (almost four days on “corrected” time). Dorade went on to win the Fastnet Race by a wide margin. When the crew returned to New York, they were honored with a ticker tape parade up Broadway, a first for sailors. The New York Times hailed the “Youthful ‘Vikings’ Who Won Ocean Race in Little Yawl.”

In recent years Dorade was based in the Mediterranean and competed in Europe’s active classic yacht racing circuit. She was acquired and brought back to the United States.

Commenting on the construction of Anna, Rowse said: “I have been thrilled to work with Olin Stephens, Mitch Gibbons-Neff (late S&S head), Bruce Johnson (S&S chief designer), Greg Matzat (S&S chief naval architect), Martha Coolidge (interior designer) and the skilled crew at Brooklin Boat Yard to recreate the classic lines of Stormy Weather with many modern improvements and, at the same time, maintain the simplicity and functionality of boats built in the ’30s, exemplified by Dorade.”

On Aug. 1, Dorade and Anna will be on public exhibition in Castine, with Olin Stephens presiding.

This celebration will precede the eighth annual Castine Classic Yacht Race to Camden on Aug. 2, the Camden to Brooklin Feeder Race on Aug. 3 and the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta on Aug. 4. More than 50 Classic and Spirit of Tradition yachts will race the 18-mile course from the Castine Harbor bell, around Robinson Rock at the southern end of Islesboro and finishing off Camden Harbor. www.castineyachtclub.org

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