

Earthrace

100% biodiesel - 100% carbon neutral

18 February 2008



NO PIRATES THIS TIME ROUND THANKS TO SPORTING SERVICES, SAYS EARTHTRACE SKIPPER

Earthrace is an incredible 78ft wave-piercing powerboat that will be starting a round the world speed record attempt next month from Sagunto in Spain. To increase awareness of the use of renewable fuels and caring for the environment, the boat will use only 100% biodiesel, and the project itself will be 100% carbon neutral.

Captain Jack Black would be a fool to even try to board the eco-boat this time around, thanks to the support of Sporting Services, who have supplied Earthrace skipper and experienced hunter, Pete Bethune from New Zealand, with a Stoeger 12guage semi-automatic shotgun, an Accuracy International AE .308 Winchester rifle and ammunition for the world record attempt.

As Pete Bethune explains, he will feel a lot better about going around the world this time with the addition of new security measures: "In 2006, we had passed uneventfully through the Panama Canal en route from California to Florida on our US tour. Suddenly a small skiff was approaching us, lowered from a larger boat, with crew armed with M-16 assault rifles. We had first thought that they were indeed pirates, and then optimistically, perhaps local fisherman. However, they then radioed Earthrace, said they were the Columbian Navy and told us to stop. I remember replying that we didn't believe they were from the Navy as they wore no uniforms and were not flying the national flag.

"The next minute, two distinct shots fired at the boat were heard by our crew and we unanimously decided to comply with their demands. From the skiff, two people boarded Earthrace and identified themselves clearly. One searched the boat, presumably for drugs, and the other analysed our communications systems. Just as quickly as they had arrived, they left, denying that they had fired on us. It wasn't until later that we discovered a tell-tale bullet hole in Earthrace that has remained there every since.

"I and my crew will feel a lot more secure in the knowledge that, thanks to Sporting Services, should the next people to attempt to board Earthrace without asking nicely first turn out to be real pirates, we will be prepared for them".

Graeme Clarke, Partner said: "Sporting Services is proud to be involved with Earthrace. We are happy to assist with the supply of suitable firearms for security on the high seas! We look forward to following Earthrace's progress and we wish all involved the very best of luck, good fortune with the weather and "calm seas"!

www.earthrace.net

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About Earthrace

Earthrace is run as a not-for-profit venture with a boat, ground and London HQ crew made up of international volunteers from New Zealand, the UK, Hungary, the US and Sweden.

The biofuel she is using has been donated by SGC Energia (Portugal). It is derived from waste cooking oil, as well as soya and canola oils from sustainable sources

Not only is Earthrace herself made from environmentally friendly components including hemp, but the project maintains a carbon neutral status through the purchase of carbon offsets from downwithcarbon.org, which uses the income to fund a sustainable biofuel project in Egypt. The offsets account for any CO2 produced through transportation of the biofuel to the different fuel stops, the biofuel itself, and all travel undertaken by the ground crew.

From the start in Sagunto, Spain (nr Valencia), the boat will cross the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans and travel through the Panama and Suez Canals as it thunders around the planet's circumference, attempting to break the official round-the-world speed record for a powerboat.

The full record route is as follows:

Sagunto, Spain - Azores - Puerto Rico - Panama Canal – Manzanillo, Mexico – San Diego, USA – Hawaii – Majuro, Marshall Islands – Koror, Palau – Singapore – Cochin, India – Salalah, Oman - Suez Canal – Sagunto, Spain

The current world record holder is British boat 'Cable and Wireless Adventurer' who took the record in a time of 75 days ten years ago in 1998.

The boat is currently in Sagunto in Spain, for her pre-record attempt refit. She will be undergoing sea trials later this month.

You can follow Earthrace as she travels around the globe in real time by going to www.earthrace.net and clicking on the 'Where is Earthrace' globe.

High resolution, copyright free photographs and video footage is available to download from the 'News and Media' page on www.earthrace.net

About Sporting Services

Founded in 1989 by Graeme & Lyn Clarke, Sporting Services is the non-military EMEA distributor of Accuracy International Ltd. precision rifles and accessories. Also specialising in the supply of ammunition, Sporting Services is well known and respected within the ballistic testing markets both in the UK and Worldwide, supplying many of the top names within this industry. For more information visit www.sportingservices.co.uk

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