

CATAMARAN COUNTDOWN

BY JAN TEGLER

AMERICA'S CUP TEAMS--AND THEIR WATCHES--VIE FOR THE
2011/2012 AMERICAS CUP WORLD SERIES

THE 34TH EDITION OF WORLD'S TOP SAILING competition, the America's Cup, is just over the horizon. On September 1, 2013, the Louis Vuitton Cup (LVC) will commence on San Francisco Bay to determine a challenger to the current holder of the Cup, Oracle Team USA. A week later, and for the first time in eighteen years, an American team will defend the Cup in American waters.

But the competition for the Cup is already underway. The revamped format that constitutes the 34th America's Cup includes the America's Cup World Series (ACWS), a regular circuit of regattas, bringing Cup racing to top venues around the world. Featuring 45-foot catamarans, smaller versions of the blazingly-fast 72-foot craft that will compete in the LVC and the AC Finals, the ACWS brings match and fleet racing to the public as never before.

The six-round 2011/2012 ACWS wrapped

up this summer in Newport, Rhode Island. At this writing, five regattas had taken place at venues including Cascais, Portugal, Plymouth, U.K., San Diego, California, Naples, Italy and Venice, Italy.

Louis Vuitton

THE OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPER OF the 34th America's Cup and the fashion house that helped usher in the modern era of AC competition with the first Louis Vuitton Cup in 1983 will celebrate thirty years of support for the old-trophy in international sport in 2013.

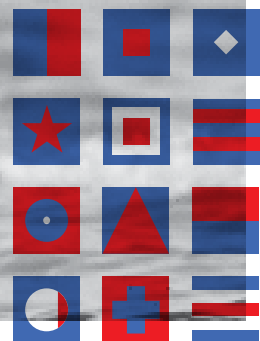
The current year also marks an anniversary for the brand. Believe it or not, it has been just ten years since Louis Vuitton's watch department began a transformation that has made it an impressive contemporary watchmaker, capable of turning out compli-

cated timepieces with high style. As such, the brand has produced two impressive limited edition chronographs to herald the 34th America's Cup and further extend the house's nautical collection of timepieces.

The Tambour Regatta America's Cup Automatic, is a 44 mm steel case chronograph, overmolded with black rubber.

Featuring an array of regatta functions including a 30-minute chronograph with a five-minute countdown function, its bold black and red dial is highlighted by an instantly readable window to indicate the pre-race countdown progression, chronograph subdials, the America's Cup logo and silhouette of the "Auld Mug" at six o'clock.

Powered by an automatic LV 171 Dubois Dépraz caliber and secured with a rubber strap, the America's Cup Automatic is available in just 720 pieces.





Corum's Admiral's Cup Seafender 48 Chrono Centro



The Tambour Regatta America's Cup Quartz chronograph also boasts a 44 mm steel case overmolded in black rubber. The three-pusher quartz-powered alternative to the Automatic distinguishes itself with a programmable countdown function with chime signal and distinctive dial with a broader red index ring. Also sporting the America's Cup logo and "Auld Mug" silhouette, the America's Cup Quartz is available in 1851 numbered pieces (a nod to the date of the first America's Cup).

TAG Heuer & Oracle Team USA

AS THE WATCH PARTNER to the current holder of the Cup, TAG Heuer finds itself in an enviable and familiar position. The brand also sponsored Oracle for the 31st America's Cup in 2003 and will find itself center stage along with the Defender for the 34th AC in San Francisco.

With five rounds of the 2011/2012 ACWS down, Oracle Team USA's number 4 catamaran Oracle Team USA-Spithill, skippered by James Spithill (the youngest skipper ever to win the America's Cup), led the Combined (Match/Fleet) Overall Standings with 84 points, besting second place Emirates Team New Zealand and seven competing boats including Oracle

Team USA's number 5 catamaran.

Skippered alternately by Oracle Racing CEO Russell Coutts (the winningest skipper in Cup history) and Darren Bundock (two-time Olympic multihull Silver medalist), the number 5 catamaran was sixth overall in the championship with 53 points. With a ter-

“ TEAM USA IS THE TEAM TO BEAT ”

rific depth of sailing talent and resources to match, Team USA is the team to beat in the 2011/2012 ACWS. Look for them to be equally strong over the next year as they compete in the 2012/2013 ACWS and progress with the build of their AC72 for a staunch defense of the America's Cup.

As Oracle Team USA prepared for the final round of the current ACWS in Newport, TAG Heuer was releasing details on one of the four limited edition collections that will result from its partnership with the team.

The Aquaracer 500M Calibre 16 Team USA Chronograph is the first timepiece to debut.

Powered by TAG's Calibre 16 automatic movement, the chronograph incorporates minute, hour and running second chronograph functions highlighted by red 30-minute and 12-hour chronograph hands and a red-tipped chronograph second hand. This black dial limited edition version of the Aquaracer features hand-applied TEAM USA or DEFENDER logos and a date window at three o'clock housed within a 44 mm fine-brushed steel case with a black rubber-coated unidirectional bezel.

Pushers on the right side of the case are also over-molded with grooved black rubber for increased grip in the marine environment. This special chronograph is available with a black rubber strap or steel bracelet. Stay tuned for further additions to the collection.

Omega & Emirates Team New Zealand

OMEGA WAS THERE IN 1995 when Team New Zealand captured the first-ever America's Cup for the Kiwis. The brand went on to partner with the squad again in 2000 for its successful defense of the Cup and for the 31st



America's Cup in 2003 when Team New Zealand stumbled, losing to Swiss team, Alinghi.

Now Omega is back with Emirates Team New Zealand for the 34th America's Cup. As ever, ETNZ is viewed as one of the top teams. After five rounds of the 2011/2012 ACWS, the team was second in the overall standings (80 points) just four points adrift of Oracle Team USA - Spithill. Led by managing director Grant Dalton and skippered by Dean Barker (who had previously won the Cup with Team New Zealand), the team has posted consistent results in the match and fleet racing, scoring several podium finishes. ETNZ has already taken delivery of their AC72 catamaran and begun testing.

Omega has not yet produced a special edition for ETNZ and the 34th AC. However, Dean Barker is known to wear both the classic Seamaster Aqua Terra and sporting Planet Ocean models. At this writing, Omega had not confirmed whether it had plans for an America's Cup edition but we wouldn't be surprised if the brand was working on something special to celebrate this new chapter in the battle for the Cup.

Corum & Energy Team

TAKE A LOOK AT THE wrist of Energy Team skipper Loïck Peyron and you'll see the watch Corum world has associated with partner Energy



◀ Louis Vuitton's Tambour Regatta America's Cup Automatic



◀ TAG Heuer's Aquaracer 500M

Team, the French squad vying for the ACWS.

Led by famed French sailors and brothers Loïck and Bruno Peyron (Energy Team CEO), ET stands fourth in the combined overall standings after five rounds with 65 points. The team has shown consistent competitiveness, scoring a victory at the most recent round in Venice, Italy (May 15-20), beating Oracle Racing Team USA - Spithill in the Fleet Racing Championship by eight seconds at the finish.

Though the team is new to America's Cup racing and relatively small, its mostly French crew are very talented multi-hull racers. Expect Energy Team to be among the top competitors in the 2012/2013 ACWS.

Fittingly, the Admiral's Cup Seafender 48 Chrono Centro is the timepiece which links Corum to Energy Team and to the wider

world of sailing. The first Admiral's Cup model dates back to 1960 and over the last three decades Corum has been a fixture in international sailboat racing, supporting a host of events including the Trophée Jules Verne 2012. Loïck Peyron won the race on February 6, setting a new world record for circumnavigation of the globe under sail (just 45 days) aboard the huge trimaran, "Banque Populaire V". The Chrono Centro he wears bears the inscription *Trophée Jules Verne 2012* and a depiction of the route of the race on the caseback.

Corum has partnered with an America's Cup team before, having joined the Swedish team, Victory Challenge, for an attempt on the 32nd AC in 2007. The Seafender 48 Chrono Centro will represent the current campaign.