

The History of Speed sailing – Outright Record

1972 : Crossbow I sets World Speed sailing record at 26.3 knots.

1972 : First RYA Speed week held at Weymouth.

1976 : Crossbow II move the record to 36 knots.

1977 : Windsurfers first appear at speed competitions. Ken Winner and Mike Waltze come across from Hawaii to enter the Weymouth event, but are beaten by Dirk Thijs from Holland who does 19.1 knots on a standard Windglider. No straps no harness.

1980 : Jaap van der Rest sets new record at 24.45 knots at Maalaea Bay (Maui) on a Ten Cate Special. He took several weeks with a paid RYA observer to break the record.

1982 : Brest Speed Week; Out of 225 competitors, Philip Pudenze breaks the World record with a run of 26.5 knots. Most competitors now sailing on special speed boards, and the "25 knots club" got formed with only six members.

1982 : RYA Speed Week; Pascal Maka sets new World windsurfing record at 27.8 knots on a Jimmy Lewis custom board.

1983 : Weymouth Speed Trials; Fred Heywood enters the scene with a new record of 30.82 knots aided by a massive back up team from Hawaii including Barry Spanier and Geoff Bourne, - and using a carbon wing instead of a mast.

1984 : Peter Bridgeman (UK) becomes the second man to break the 30 knots barrier.

1985 : Port St. Louis France; 50 knots wind speed and 8 sailors beat the World record. The fastest of them is Michael Pucher at 32.35 knots.

1986 : July 21st. Sotavento, Fuerteventura; Windsurfing becomes the fastest sailing sport in the World as Pascal Maka breaks the fourteen years dominance of Crossbow II with a speed at 38.86 knots. On a Jimmy Lewis board and Gaastra sail. Three others also break the record: Eric Beale (36.73) Jimmy Lewis (36.31) and Fred Heywood. (36.13) Eugen Dunkerbeck claims production board record on an F2 Starlit at 34.60 knots, and yes.- that was a wave board.

1987 : The Camargue Wind Club finish construction of the 800 meter long St. Marie speed canal. It was also angled perfectly to accommodate the Mistral winds.

1988 : Pascal Maka beats off the challenge from the nine-ton hydrofoil Trimaran "Paca" with 310 sqm rig. Maka (84 kg) uses a 4.4 sqm Gaastra Slalomfoil to amaze the yachting world.

1988 : November; Eric Beale breaks the 40 knots barrier with a run of 40.5 knots at the speed canal, now known as the "Trench". However, the run was made at a private trials and the dominant Pascal Maka was not invited.

1989 : Sotavento; Roddy Lewis wins with 38.28 knots with Dunkerbeck close behind on a slalom board.

1989 : Pascal Maka retakes the title with a 42.91 knots run at the Trench.

1990 : F2 Sputnik 270 was launched. Dave White (GBR) immediately uses it to set a new production record at 39.10 knots.

1991 : March; Thierry Bielak sets new record of 43.06 knots at the Trench in private trials.

1991 : July; Thierry Bielak pushes up the bar again at the Trench. 44.66 knots.

1991 : Nick Luget and Tushingham win the Wind Swatch event at the Trench with a run of 41.22 knots, beating record holder Bielak and Maka in the process.

1991 : Dunkerbeck blasts everyone away with a 43.34 knots run in Tarifa to become the fastest sailor in history on a natural (off shore) course.

1991 : October; Dave White (GBR) breaks production Board Speed Record at West Kirby on a F2 Sputnik 270 at 42.16 knots..

1993 : Australia. Yellow Pages Endeavour, a 30 foot Proa. Retakes the World Record with a speed of 46.52 knots.

1993 : Thierry Bielak lift the Windsurfing record to 45.32 knots at the Trench.

this record stood for many years as speed sailing went through a unpopular period. Various attempts were made by Bjorn Dunkerbeck, Robbie Naish and Anders Bringdal but none came

close to setting a new record until 2004. A new challenge was set in the trench in France organised by Pascal Maka as race director. This resulted in.

2004 : 46.82 knots. Finian Maynard (BVI) set a new record at the Trench.

2004 : David White (GBR) sets new Production board record on an F2 Missile at 44.03 knots

2005 : 48.70 knots. Finian improves his record at the Trench

2008 : 49.09 knots. Antoine Albeau (FRA) takes the outright record .in the Trench.

In 2008 a new craft to speedsailing, Kiteboard, found a new speed spot in Namibia called Luderitz. An old Diamond mining town known for its very strong winds and shallow offshore bays it was the perfect location for the new breed of speed kites.

2009 :. Luderitz, NAM. First the record falls to a Kiteboarder –Rob Douglas (USA) 49.84 – then Seb Cattelan (FRA) breaks the 50 knot barrier with 50.26 – finally the record falls to Alex Caizergues (FRA) 50.57 knots

2009 : 51.36. Hydroptere a 50 foot foiling Trimaran skippered by Alain Thebault (FRA) and his crew snatch the title at Hyere in France.

2010 : 55.65. The kiteboarder's reclaim the record – first Alex Caizergues 54.10- then Seb Cattelan 55,49 – and finally Rob Douglas with 55.65 knots.

A new canal has been constructed and tested in 2011 at Luderitz Namibia approximately 300m inland of the old course and at a slightly broader angle to the wind and most importantly deeper. This new course will be ready for the planned 2012 attempt by Kite and windsurfers. Watch this space.