



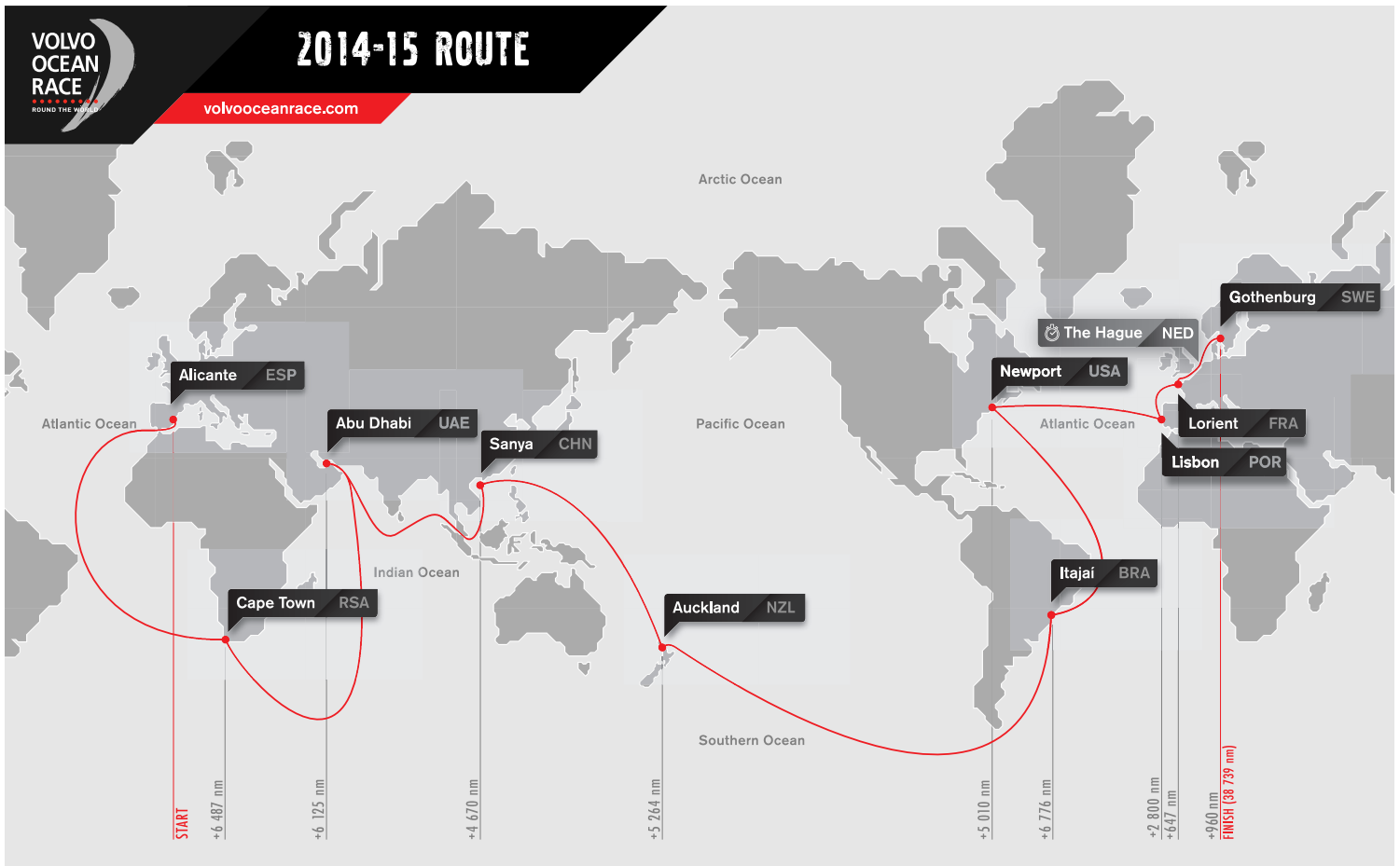
Five Questions with Volvo Ocean Race Skipper & Rhode Island Native Charlie Enright

By Andrea E. McHugh

Perhaps it's when he finds himself somewhere in the middle of the Southern Ocean, skippering a 65-foot carbon racing yacht and responsible for the safety of his crew in some of the most unforgiving, remote seas on the planet, that Charlie Enright will be reminded there's no place like home. The Bristol, Rhode Island native will embark on the nine-month Volvo Ocean Race, a brutal battle of teams from around the world that will take in 11 cities in 11 countries covering 38,739 nautical miles starting in October 2014. Enright will be leading Team Alvamedica, an all under-30 team, in what is considered the world's premiere off-shore sailing race, and while ports including Abu Dhabi, Cape Town and Sanya, China are sure to be extraordinary, Enright is most looking forward to Newport, the only North American stopover in the race and an anticipated homecoming for the experienced sailor. We had a few questions for Enright and why he'd want to circumnavigate the globe in the midst of gale force winds, pronounced sleep deprivation and barely palatable foods.

ABOVE: Caption..... PHOTO: SAM GREENFIELD/VOLVO OCEAN RACE

BELOW: Newport, Rhode Island will be the sixth port stop after the teams depart Alicante, Spain. It is the only North American stopover and will be marked by a series of events May 5-17, 2015 including concerts, activities, a sailing village and more, culminating with the transatlantic leg race start on Sunday, May 17, 2015. For more information, visit facebook.com/volvoceanracenewport.



What was your initial reaction when you were tapped to skipper the under-30 team for the 2014-2015 VOR, and how did you tell your friends and family?

It sounds like a cliché, but it really was a dream come true. The fact of the matter is, I wasn't able to tell any of my friends until after a press conference in late January, but it was pretty easy to tell my family; they are very supportive of my sailing.

How does it feel to know that the only North American stopover will be in your home state? Are you expecting a lot of friends and family to be awaiting your arrival in Newport?

To do the Volvo Ocean Race is an amazing opportunity. To do it in a year when it visits your hometown is on a totally different level. I hope a lot of people come out to support the event, not just my friends and family. It was great for Newport to get the stopover, but we have to keep it. Everyone should have a long term view on this experience.

You've won numerous transatlantic races but this will be your first circumnavigation. What are some of the challenges you're anticipating and how are you preparing?

Yes, this will be my first circumnavigation. Sailing around the world is a pretty binary accomplishment. You've either done it or you haven't, and I haven't. I expect to experience more extreme conditions than I have even seen, in parts of the ocean that I've never sailed through. We are preparing by training in Lisbon, doing two transatlantic crossings, and competing in a pre-race competition against some of our VOR competitors.

The VOR is known as one of, if not the, most grueling races on the planet. People might ask why you would want to embark on such a journey. What do you say?

It's the pinnacle of crewed ocean racing, I love ocean racing and I am a really competitive person.

You grew up in Rhode Island's East Bay and though you have traveled extensively, you have settled here as an adult. What is it about this area that you find extraordinary?

I do a lot of traveling, which is nice, but it always feels good to come home. There's nothing like driving over the Mt. Hope Bridge on a sunny morning or afternoon. The East Bay is full of history and maritime culture and I couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

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