

## Shannon Singlehanders

On September 21, 1981, Moulton H. "Monk" Farnham and his Shannon 28 *Seven Bells*, made landfall in England, successfully completing a 5 week transatlantic crossing single-handed. Monk, author of the June 1980 YACHTING article entitled "Expert's Choice," reports: "Put in to Falmouth, England to complete solo T.A. in *Seven Bells* from Cambridge, Md. via Bermuda, after



Monk Farnham (left) and Walt Schulz in Cambridge, MD (right) after the "brandy ceremony" just before Monk's incredible solo transatlantic voyage on a Shannon 28.

an equinoctial gale off the Lizard had me knee-deep in cold sea, wiped out my steering vane, and, as the hospital finally found on my 2nd visit, gave me 4 broken ribs. But I was lucky. Nearby, a French OSTAR contestant was drowned and a container ship stranded. Home in mid-November, leaving boat here to return with Ruth (Mrs. Farnham) in Spring and go cruising. Meantime, am told I'll be in 1982 Guinness Record Book as oldest hombre (72) to sail T.A. west-east singlehanded. Don't feel that old — barely a day over 90." The record-setting passage is a tribute to his courage, determination, and skill, and to the strength and seaworthiness built into his 28 by the people here at Shannon. It was a great accomplishment and we're sure to hear more about it from Monk.

Also sailing his Shannon 28 *Aeolus* single-handed these days is Clint Viebrock of Seattle, Washington. In contrast to Monk Farnham's decades of blue-water experience, *Aeolus* is Clint's first boat. As you may know, Shannon personnel provide new owners with complete instruction in areas such as sail handling, mechanical and electrical systems operations, and docking as a part of each delivery. Following a week of seatrials and learning about *Aeolus* this fall, Clint headed off-

shore from Newport, R.I. to Norfolk, VA. Although he encountered a severe winter storm off Cape May, the first leg of the trip was completed with Clint confident in his abilities and the seaworthiness of his Shannon. After the trip down the Intercoastal Waterway, and another offshore passage from Beaufort, North Carolina to St. Augustine, Florida, *Aeolus* is well on her way home to the Pacific Northwest through the Panama Canal.

Another Shannon single-hander in the news is Spencer Langford of Cohasset, Mass. Spencer raced his 38 cutter *Summer Salt* to a second in class and seventh overall finish in the Newport to Bermuda single-handed race this June. His time of 4 days and thirteen hours would have been outstanding for a full crew, let alone one man. *Summer Salt* romped in westerly winds for most of the trip, including an exciting 12 hour spinnaker run. Spencer was justifiably proud of his efforts as *Summer Salt's* captain, navigator, cook, and crew. His performance was particularly remarkable, considering that although Spencer is a highly qualified ocean sailor and navigator, this was his first singlehanded racing effort.

Everyone here at Shannon salutes Spencer, Monk, Clint and the other Shannon singlehanders.