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French Ministry Collaborates With sitesALIVE!

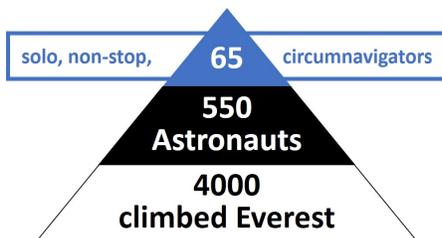
August 23, 2016, Marblehead, MA – As *Great American IV* arrives in les Sables d’Olonne ready to complete training, sitesALIVE! has surged ahead in its bid to appeal to audiences in France, where the Vendée Globe is well known. They are set to launch a French version of their website; the Teachers’ Guide has already been translated into French; and, most importantly, the Directorate-General for Schools of the French Ministry for National Education has agreed to collaborate on the educational program. More details to follow after administrators return from the August holidays.

Although the Vendée Globe already offers an education program for school children via their website, the education ministry appreciated several novel aspects of sitesALIVE! They liked that sitesALIVE! puts curricular topics into real world context and that they offer a team of experts, plus the chance for students to interact globally around the various topics. After an initial favorable meeting in February with ministry officials (thanks to the introduction of the American Embassy in Paris) President of sitesALIVE!, Rich Wilson, met again in June to hash out details. The ministry has approved the program for use in French schools.

In other France-related news, Wilson and *Great American IV* arrived in les Sables d’Olonne on August 17th, after motoring for the last part of the trip over calm seas. Training will be completed there. Previously, at the end of June, Wilson sailed a short training run with British sailor Dee Caffari (who was also on board to help on the crossing from the Azores to South Hampton in November last year). Although they started out on this latest training run with lightning storms, which Dee categorized as “very, very, frightening,” the effort managed to put skipper and boat through their paces, tacking and gibing, changing sails and checking all systems on board. As in November, it was reassuring to have Dee aboard as Wilson got the hang of sailing the big boat in a variety of conditions.

Seventy-five days before the start, French enthusiasm for the Vendée Globe is building, and this time around sitesALIVE! wants to make sure to do everything possible to make their educational program accessible to French-speakers. The French version of the sitesALIVE! site, is on track to launch in September. They’ve also had the teachers’ manual translated into French, giving francophone teachers -- wherever they may be in the world -- instructions on how to guide their students through the math, science, history and geography curriculum, based on a sailing adventure that circumnavigates the globe.

About sitesALIVE! – For 25 years, sitesALIVE! has been exciting and engaging students in learning, for science, geography, math, and history, by connecting them to live, real-world adventures, expeditions, and field research stations globally, and to the people at those sites, on land or sea, using print and online distribution of curricular-based classroom activities which are informed by scheduled deliverables from, and interaction with, the adventures, expeditions and field research stations. Founder Rich Wilson was the only American entrant in the Vendée Globe 2008-9, finishing 9th of 11 finishers of 30 starters. At 58 years old, he was also the oldest skipper in the fleet. He was the second American to finish the event sitesALIVE Foundation Inc., is a non-profit organization headquartered in Marblehead, Massachusetts, USA. For more information, go to sitesalive.com. For more information about Vendée Globe and a map of the upcoming race route, please visit vendee-globe.org/en/presentation#route



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