

PRESS RELEASE: AMERICA'S CUP 2017 AND BEYOND: THE DRAMA CONTINUES.

An illustrated presentation by Canadian yacht designer and America's Cup veteran Steve Killing.

A Canadian insider's look at the "pinnacle of yachting": America's Cup

Learn about the controversies, politics, failures and successes of the competition for the oldest trophy in sport. With hundreds of millions of dollars pumped into making some of the fastest yachts ever created, the advancements made for the America's Cup race echo across the sailing world.



August 16, 2019 starting at 7 p.m. at the Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, BC.

August 24, 2019 starting at 2 PM the Nanaimo Yacht Club, Nanaimo, B.C.

Tickets: \$25 each, available at:

Mary Winspear Centre tickets – www.designedtowin.ca or 250-656-0275

Nanaimo Yacht Club tickets – www.designedtowin.ca

or tickets by calling Paul Vincent at 250-937-8911.

A fundraiser for the Schooner Cove Singers — Vancouver Island's first professional choir

THE STORY:

An insider's look at America's Cup 2017 and the future of sailing

America's Cup is known as both the pinnacle of yachting and the oldest trophy in the history of sport. Yet competition for the cup is so fierce that it thrusts sailing into the future and re-invents itself as a new sport every time sailors compete for it.

Canadian yacht designer Steve Killing has been at the forefront of some of the most recent accelerations in sailing. As both a member of the cutting-edge Emirates Team New Zealand Challenge in 2013, and then an official for America's Cup 2017, Killing is uniquely positioned to give an insider's look into the competition's latest incarnation. And also, to answer the question: "Now that yachts can fly, what will they do in 2021?"

Killing will be giving a presentation called *America's Cup 2017 and Beyond: The Drama Continues*. Killing will discuss some of the biggest controversies, upsets and technological advances in recent America's Cup history from the perspective of a yacht designer and builder, and as an insider.

Given the role of one of just three measurers for America's Cup 2017, Killing had access to every team and yacht being developed. He saw the secrets and the not-so-secrets of the teams as they developed brand-new yachts made for speed.

"The neat thing about the measuring job is you get to see the thought process of each competitor," said Killing. "So you've got these five different countries and their approach to making boats go fast."

Killing's interest has been varied, designing a variety of boats including kayaks, canoes, racing sailboats and many more. His first involvement in America's Cup was in 1983 with team Canada returning to the competition for the first time in more than 100 years.

He then became the head designer for Canada's True North Challenge team in 1987 where he championed the use of a computer velocity prediction program.

More recently, Killing was a team member for Emirates Team New Zealand Challenge in 2013 when they stunned the yachting world by coming up with a hydrofoil design that lifted the hull of their catamaran out of the water, and nonetheless adhered to the competition's rules.

"In that event, they (officials) had not expected people to be able to fly," given the rules set out, said Killing. "But, with perseverance and a lot of fine-tuning, New Zealand discovered how to fly. They were the first. Unfortunately, we sort of showed our hand a little early while we were practicing in New Zealand, and then the Americans said, 'Holy cow, these things really can fly,' so then they started working on the process as well."

He, like his teammates, felt the sting when the American team made a stunning come-from-behind victory over the New Zealand team in 2013.

Nonetheless, the use of hydrofoils provided a huge technological leap in sailing around the world, and effectively turned the competition for America's Cup 2013 into a whole new sport.

And Killing would not have to wait long to see his former teammates succeed. He had a front-row-seat to the 2017 competition that saw Emirates Team New Zealand win America's Cup.

Steve Killing's presentation takes place on August 16th, 7 p.m. at the Mary Winspear Centre, and August 24th 2 p.m. at the Nanaimo Yacht Club. www.designedtowin.ca