

# ...while Paris stays adrift

**By Matt Westcott**

Alan Paris' frustrations in the Around Alone sailing race continue with no end in sight.

Paris and his yacht *BTC Velocity* are still 197.97 miles from the Leg One finish in Torbay, England after setting off from New York on September 15.

"In Bermuda we have an expression which sums up how a person feels when they are perhaps frustrated, tired, feeling put upon or generally a little down . . . we just say "it's not easy" and everyone knows what you mean," said Paris in his latest message from the middle of the Atlantic. "Well that's how I feel right now.

"It's not easy - *BTC Velocity* does not deserve to be in this spot right now, not that anyone ever said sailing was fair!"

At the time of writing on Saturday night there was a wind speed of 0.5 knots and Paris was making one knot.

"I am watching the E.T.A for Torbay get further and further away and the time to see family, friends and make repairs getting shorter and shorter," he said.

"I have received weather forecasts from two different sources, MasSea and Raymarine, and they both disagree with what the conditions are. They are (also) both wrong for



**Trials at sea:** Bermudian sailor Alan Paris

what I have experienced since yesterday at 12 noon when the wind went light!"

Paris said he and fellow competitor *Spirit of Yukon* were stuck in a three day high pressure system between days seven and ten. From then on it has been a case of catch up.

"Now another system is blocking our way to Torbay and there is nothing we can do about it," he said.

To add insult to injury the sailor's tanks ran out of water on Friday.

"I also have three one and a half litre water bottles left, one litre of Gatorade and then its time to pull from my 'grab bag' - supplies that would be used in the event I have to take to a life raft," he said.