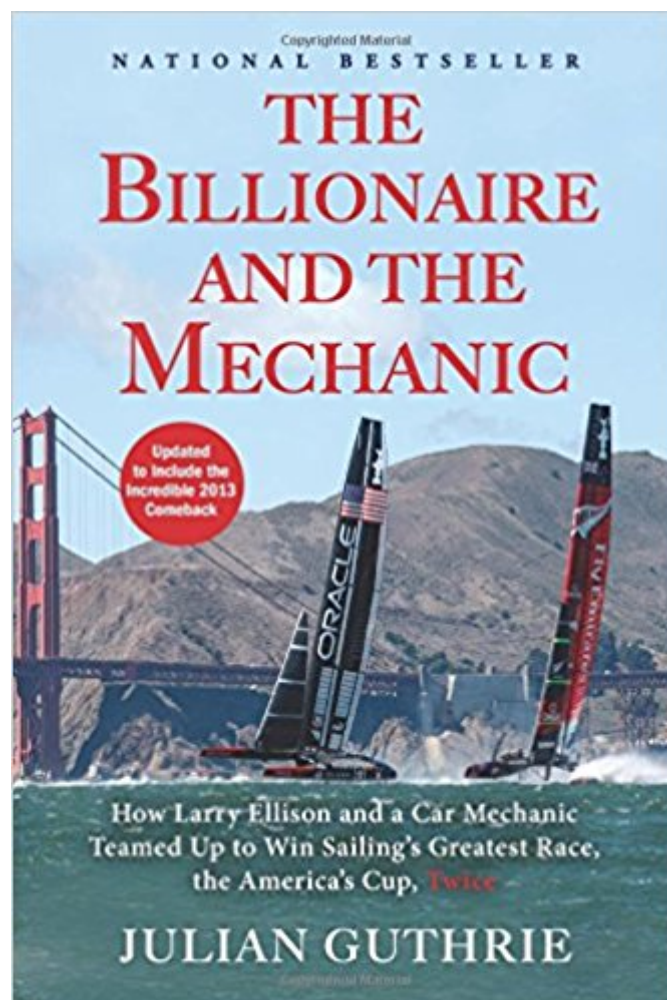




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# The Billionaire And The Mechanic: How Larry Ellison And A Car Mechanic Teamed Up To Win Sailing's Greatest Race, The Americas Cup, Twice





## Synopsis

Expanded to include the behind-the-scenes story of the 34th America's Cup and Team USA's incredible comeback. Down eight-to-one in the 34th America's Cup in September 2013, Oracle Team USA pulled off a comeback for the ages, with eight straight wins against Emirates Team New Zealand. Julian Guthrie's *The Billionaire and the Mechanic* tells the incredible story of how a car mechanic and one of the world's richest men teamed up to win the world's greatest race. With a lengthy new section on the 34th America's Cup, Guthrie also shows how they did it again. The America's Cup, first awarded in 1851, is the oldest trophy in international sports. In 2000, Larry Ellison, co-founder and billionaire CEO of Oracle Corporation, decided to run for the prize and found an unlikely partner in Norbert Bajurin, a car mechanic and Commodore of the blue-collar Golden Gate Yacht Club. After unsuccessful runs for the Cup in 2003 and 2007, they won for the first time in 2010. With unparalleled access to Ellison and his team, Guthrie takes readers inside the building process of these astonishing boats and the lives of the athletes who race them and throws readers into exhilarating races from Australia to Valencia.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Larry Ellison, billionaire founder of Oracle Corporation, the worldwide computer technology company, was looking for a challenge. He decided, in early 2000, to race for the America's Cup. Of course, the America's Cup race isn't between individuals but between sailing clubs; Ellison figured that shouldn't be a problem. He'd have no trouble

finding a club to sponsor him. Turns out that wasn't as simple as he thought, until Norbert Bajurin, the mechanic of the title and the newly appointed commodore of San Francisco's Golden Gate Yacht Club, faced with a shrinking membership and the very real possibility that the club might have to shut down, came up with the brilliant idea of sponsoring Ellison. This energetically written book recounts the partnership that grew into a friendship, as Ellison and Bajurin mounted multiple runs for the Cup (they won it in 2010, and that story alone, with its pitched legal battles and their attendant publicity, could fill a book). Published only months before the 2013 America's Cup, with Ellison's team defending, the book is sure to spark interest among racing fans. --David Pitt --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

A Forbes Best Book of the Year;[An] excellent book. . . . The story of Mr. Ellison's decade-long effort to win the Cup and bring it back to the U.S. under Golden Gate's flag is worth telling, and Julian Guthrie, a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle, tells it well. --Wall Street Journal;Splendid . . . Guthrie crisply sketches the complex process that was required for Ellison to establish his own position in the top ranks of yachting and organize the winning team in 2010. A thriller of a tale and a worthy scene-setter for this summer's trophy defense in San Francisco Bay. --Kirkus Reviews;The Billionaire and the Mechanic opens with a thrilling scene as old as Homer's Odyssey and as iconic as ones from Conrad, Melville, Hemingway and Sebastian Junger: a man battling a dangerously stormy sea. That the sailor, Larry Ellison, is one of our contemporary captains of industry, the swashbuckling billionaire of the title; only heightens the drama. . . . [The Billionaire and the Mechanic] succeeds as a lively primer, history, and up-to-date soap opera, full of local color, leading up to the America's Cup races in San Francisco Bay. --San Francisco Chronicle"Julian Guthrie's riveting book takes readers deep into uncharted realms, from the extremes of the ocean to the sublime connection between two singular men. The Billionaire and The Mechanic is a wondrously detailed story, beautifully told, by a writer who understands both the intricacies of human nature and the immensity of the natural world."—Susan Casey, author of The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks, and Giants of the Ocean;Surely the most comprehensive book ever written about an America's Cup challenge, The Billionaire and The Mechanic will surely be must reading for any yacht-racing aficionado."—Frank Deford;From the opening scene in this book;and scene is the appropriate word for its cinematic beginning;the reader is swept along on heart-thumping rides on swift, dueling sailboats, past an assemblage of characters worthy of Dreiser, past the

shoals of deceit worthy of Dickens, and coming to rest on the formidable character of billionaire Larry Ellison, who has the will-to-win of his best friend, Steve Jobs, and of a mechanic, who made winning possible. Julian Guthrie writes as if with a magic wand, holding the reader spellbound.

—Ken Auletta "[A] product of first-rate reporting. . . . A riveting account."

—Sailing "Energetically written .... sure to spark interest among racing fans."

—Booklist "This is one helluva great read. Larry and Norbert — beautiful dreamers both, men with faith in their ability to convert them to reality. This book is fascinating; it informs, educates and entertains about the longest continuously contested trophy in all of sports. This is a must read for lovers of sport, and particularly for sailors."

—Bob Fisher, author of *An Absorbing Interest: The America's Cup A History 1851-2003* "Larry Ellison's America's Cup victory was as improbable as it was inevitable. The same is true of his alliance with radiator repairman Norbert Bajurin. In this absorbing page-turner, Julian Guthrie tells us how they came together to make history."

—G. Bruce Knecht, author of *The Proving Ground: The Inside Story of the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Race* "The Billionaire and the Mechanic is pumping with adrenaline and yet full of subtle, surprising details about both sailing and one of the most mysterious, controversial characters on earth. This book is tirelessly reported and Guthrie has a rare writing gift to tie it all together into a work of literary journalism that reads like a thriller."

—Jaimal Yogis, author of *The Fear Project* "If you're interested in the America's Cup competition, or in sailboat racing generally, you'll love this book. Julian Guthrie's taut and fascinating behind-the-scenes account of the colorful personalities, the risky development of astonishing new boats, and the hair-raising racing tactics of Larry Ellison's long campaign to win the trophy is necessary background reading."

—Derek Lundy, author of *Godforsaken Sea: A True Story of Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters* "A gripping tale of world-class competition and strategic gamesmanship. . . . It will have enduring value as a great story in its own right."

—Sail World "Entertaining."

—Soundings "An up-close tour of how the world's fifth-richest man spent hundreds of millions of dollars, and hired and fired the best sailors on Earth, to win."

—Forbes

As a lifelong sailor, and a Newport, RI resident; the America Cup has been a big part of my life. This is a well told history of the extraordinary commitment and challenges that face those who participate in the race. Well done!

Great book and includes the update for the SF races. Well written and a good read for anyone who

loves America's Cup racing.

Julian Guthrie is the epitome of the fabulous storyteller who pulls you in then takes you on a ride as breathtaking as that on an AC72 catamaran roaring toward the finish line. To anyone afflicted with life on the water, this is a not-to-miss page turner that cannot be put down!

One of the best books I have ever read!! This true story provides an exciting insight into the contrast of man and nature, man against man and the psychological threads that bind them. The writing is magnificent in its detail and provides the reader with the excitement of the 'race'. Many thanks to Larry Ellison and Norbert--truly magnificent men of our time.

OK, disclosure: I am a member of the St Francis Yacht Club. Then the book: well written, entertaining. I learned more from the book than from my club...Larry is a mesmerizing figure, maybe not the nicest man on earth, some will say an asshole. But the man is a powerful, hard charging entrepreneur. And don't believe it is easy, it is very hard, he could have failed hundreds of times. But he did not and never gave up. We raced against him when he had Sayonara. I have a lot of respect for Larry.

A quick read and primer on the greatest sailing in history...the people and technology and money that goes into the modern day sport

Although I had difficulty with a third party called me with an alternative which was right on time. The book is great. I've seen the Cup which arrives in a Louis Vuitton case with armed escorts. You can get very close then any closer and it gets physical.

I got the book, intrigued by the title and being a fan of Larry Ellison. What a treat. Ms Guthrie is a master researcher and a most engaging writer, mastering scenes and nuances that are at times gripping and exciting, at times moving you deeply. I am a big fan of American entrepreneurship. Getting to know Larry Ellison (The Billionaire) and Norbert (The Mechanic) makes this much more than an exciting sailing book. Free thinking American men, pushing the envelope, taking The Risk. Ellison's relationship to Steve Jobs and his family is beautifully told. I love to see more from this author.

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