



Edgartown Yacht Club's Edgartown Race Weekend

Around the Buoys and One Fine Island; Winners Named in BBBR and 'Round-the-Island Race

EDGARTOWN, MASS., MARTHA'S VINEYARD (July 27, 2014) — Buoy racing followed by a circumnavigation of Martha's Vineyard made Edgartown Yacht Club's three-day Edgartown Race Weekend (July 24-26) the just-right combination for dozens of teams competing. The Thursday/Friday [Big Boat Buoy Races](#), a separately scored fleet racing series that made its full debut last year after organizers trial-tested a one-day buoy racing event the year prior, hosted 32 boats, while the 77-year old ['Round-the-Island Race](#) -- decidedly more storied, if not downright legendary -- saw 67 boats taking on the hearty 56 nautical mile rounding of one of America's most beloved island vacation destinations.



Big Boat Buoy Races on Thursday. Credit Michael Berwind

For the Big Boat Buoy Races, Jim Swartz's (Park City, Utah/Edgartown) IRC 52 *Vesper*, which recently concluded a successful campaign in Europe, topped the eight-boat IRC fleet, trading victories with Gunther Buerman's (Newport, R.I.) IRC 52 *Hooligan* in the first day's two races that saw a northerly breeze build to 15-17 knots by early afternoon. A third race that had been started was abandoned

after *Hooligan* snagged a race mark and it broke free, rendering the race unfair to those who followed behind, but there was still Friday's racing for settling scores. In the lingering northerly that weakened throughout the day, *Vesper* won two of three races sailed, while *Hooligan*, taking the hit of two seventh-place finishes, fell to fourth overall. Steve and Heidi Benjamin's (Darien, Conn.) Carkeek 40 *Spookie* improved its score line to rise to second on the scoreboard, while Takashi Okura's (Tokyo, Japan/Montvale, N.J.) *Sled* settled in for third.

"It's great to get such a good fleet of big boats here," said Swartz on Friday afternoon while his crew was busy switching the boat into "coastal racing gear" for the 'Round-the-Island Race. "*Vesper*, *Hooligan*, *Sled*, *Interlodge*...we're all very evenly matched. It's very competitive on the water, but on shore it's a very friendly, good group of people."



Big Boat Buoy Races Friday. Credit Michael Berwind

The 10-boat PHRF Spinnaker class also completed three races on day two for a five-race series, and it was the Naval Academy Sailing Squadron's Farr 40 *Ranger* that held all the cards in that class. "Sailing in light wind is stressful," said Andy Bonn (Camden, N.C.), *Ranger*'s 20-year-old helmsman, after Friday's racing. "He who has the most patience makes the best gains; that's what we found today." Bonn said his team's closest competition came from the Naval Academy's second entry here, the J/122 *Dolphin*, which wound up tied on point score for second with John Schimenti's ID35 *Zefiro Torna* but having to settle for third place because of tie breaker rules. "With the way the (PHRF) rating system works, *Ranger* and *Dolphin* were close in time," said Bonn.



Chip Hawkins, Big Boat Buoy Races class winner and Upbeat Cup winner in 'Round-the-Island Race. Credit Media Pro Int'l

Chip Hawkins' (Barrington, R.I.) Pearson 10 Metre *Caneel* and Richard Egan's (Hyannis, Mass.) J/44 *Wings* won the eight-boat PHRF Non-Spinnaker and six-boat Double-Handed classes, respectively, counting four races total for their series.

"We have everything else, we just don't have a chute (spinnaker)," laughed Hawkins, a champion in his home waters of Narragansett Bay who would go on to be the only competitor with a victory "two-fer" after he won his PHRF Non-Spinnaker Class C in the 'Round-the-Island Race and claimed the Upbeat Cup for best performance among all non-spinnaker classes. "This is our first time for this event, and we're still feeling it out, but it's very good competition and great fun."

Sailing with his 18-year-old son Joe, Richard Egan said he was a bit overpowered on Thursday: "With a big boat like ours and just the two of us, it's hard to change sails." Joe still liked the bigger wind, however, calling Friday's races "painfully slow" and was looking forward to the projected heavy air in the 'Round-the-Island Race where his brother and two cousins were due to join him for a fully crewed attempt at victory there.

"What's happening is we're seeing an evolution, which is really healthy, of a shift to the next generation," said the elder Egan, who has been sailing this event since he was his son's age. "They know how to make the boat go, and I have total confidence in them to run the boat."



Saturday's 'Round-the-Island Race. Credit Michael Berwind

Sailors had to tuck in early on Friday night to be ready for 6:30 a.m. boat calls Saturday morning-- before the 8 a.m. start of the 'Round-the-Island Race. And that hadn't been easy with the now-traditional Mt. Gay Jump-up Party dutifully following Friday evening's awards for the Big Boat Buoy Racing. A building 10-12 knot breeze for the start made it all worth the effort, however, and the memory of a dreaded alarm clock going off was replaced with adrenalin-infused concentration on the next task at hand: to hit the starting line right on the money and, if you had them, immediately hoist a spinnaker for harnessing as much downwind power as possible.



America's Cup legend Dean Barker on *Interlodge*. Credit Media Pro Int'l

Even Dean Barker, best known internationally as *Emirates Team New Zealand's* skipper in the last America's Cup, got in on the dramatic starting line action, serving as back-up driver and strategist for *Interlodge*, but it was *Sled* that would rule at the end of the day in IRC class, taking home a class victory and the Commodores' Concord Cup for shortest elapsed time around the island (5:49:22) and Dave Alexander's Arcona 430 *Pressure Drop* that would win the coveted [Venona Trophy](#) for best overall performance among all spinnaker classes.



Douglass Curtiss's Wicked 2.0 at start of 'Round-the-Island Race. Credit Michael Berwind.

Defending champion Douglas Curtiss (New Bedford, Mass.), who won PHRF A class with his J/111 *Wicked 2.0*, said the 8-10 knot breeze, a south/southwesterly, kept filling in after the start, and by the time his team got to East Chop it was gusting to 18. "It was a beautiful, beautiful day out there," he said, adding that victory was not easy. "First and second place (won by *Vanish*) was decided by three minutes over 7 ½ hours of racing, so if you boil that down to percentages, that's a 3% difference in speed. The Naval Academy, too, was toe-to-toe with us, and they held two out of the top five finish positions, so I'd say that they have a very competitive program for sailing, and it is making a difference."



Plenty of color: Mt. Gay Jump-Up Party, on the Notice Board, and at the skippers' meeting. Credit Media Pro Int'l

Dolphin won the Hobart A.H. Cook Maritime Award for best performance by a Naval, Coast Guard or Maritime Academy boat, while Buzzards Yacht Club (Pocasset, Mass.) won the Yacht Club Team Trophy with the performances of Bruce Robinson's Morris 51 *Eider Down*, Matthew Schmitt's J/105 *Hard Tack* and Allen Eddy's Pearson P36-2 *Kinsale*. *Eider Down* was, additionally, a class winner (PHRF Non-Spinnaker A), as was Stephen McManus's J/120 *Saykadoo* (PHRF B) and James Swent's Alerion Express 38 *Osprey* (PHRF Non-Spinnaker B).

For more information, go to <http://www.rtirace.org> or contact raceadministrator@edgartownyc.org.

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Results 2014 Big Boat Buoy Races (July 24-25)

Place, Sail No., Boat Name, Type, Skipper, Home Club, Finish Pos., Points

Class 1 IRC (8 boats)

1. USA52007, Vesper, IRC52, Jim Swartz, EYC, 1-2-1-1-2- ; 7
2. USA 95, SPOOKIE, Carkeek HP 40, Steve & Heidi Benjamin, Seawanhaka Corinthian & Noroton, 2-4-2-4-5- ; 17
3. USA5095, SLED, IRC52, Takashi Okura, NYYC, 5-3-6-2-4- ; 20

Class 2 PHRF (10 boats)

1. 60059, RANGER, Farr 40 ODR, Brandt Clemons, Naval Academy Sailing Squadron, 1-2-3-7-1- ; 14
2. USA35035, Zefiro Torna, 1D35 Modified, John Schimenti, NONE, 4-5-2-1-6- ; 18T
3. USA 52919, Dolphin, J/122 CF, Tyler Martenstein, Naval Academy Sailing Squadron, 3-4-5-3-3- ; 18T

Class 3 PHRF Non-Spinnaker (8 boats)

1. 22926, Caneel, Pearson 10M, Chip Hawkins, Barrington Yacht Club, 1-1-1-4- ; 7
2. 21, Osprey, Alerion Express 38, James Swent, None, 2-2-2-2- ; 8
3. 33813, Cygne, Swan 46, Norman Lewis, Antigua, 3-3-4-3- ; 13

Class 4 Double-Handed (6 boats) (top)

1. US60464, Wings, J/46, Richard Egan, Hyannis Yacht Club, 1-1-2-1- ; 5
2. 18, Arrow, Aphrodite 101, Harald Findlay, Edgartown, 2-3-1-7/DNF- ; 13
3. 10, Orpheus, Alerion Express 33, Sandy Vietor, Edgartown YC, 3-2-4-7/DNF- ; 16

(more)

Results 2014 'Round-the-Island Race (July 26)

Place, Sail No., Boat Name, Type, Skipper, Home Club, Finish Pos., Points

Class 1 IRC (9 boats)

1. USA5095, Sled, IRC52, Takashi Okura, NYYC, 1- ; 1
2. USA52007, Vesper, IRC52, Jim Swartz, EYC, 2- ; 2
3. 5210, Interlodge, IRC52, Austin and Gwen Fragomen, NYYC, 3- ; 3

Class 2 PHRF A (9 boats)

1. 30, WICKED 2.0, J/111, Douglas Curtiss, New Bedford, 1- ; 1
2. 51613, Vanish, J/46, Bill Jacobson, Constitution Yacht Club, 2- ; 2
3. USA 52919, DOLPHIN, J/122 CF, Tyler Martenstein, Naval Academy Sailing Squadron, 3- ; 3

Class 3 PHRF B (11 boats)

1. USA77, Saykadoo, J/120, Stephen McManus, Annapolis Yacht Club, 1- ; 1
2. 50454, Après, J boats J/120, Stephen Besse, Vineyard Haven and Holmes Hole, 2- ; 2
3. USA10625, Dreamcatcher, Swan 48, Stephen Kylander, New Bedford, 3- ; 3

Class 4 PHRF C (12 boats)

1. 49, Pressure Drop, Arcona 430, Dave Alexander, constitution YC, 1- ; 1
2. 12033, Sparkle Pony, Kirie Elite 37, Bill Finn/Francis Shiman-Hackett, Constitution YC / Savin Hill YC, 2- ; 2
3. 563, Hardtack, J/105, Matthew Schmitt, Buzzards YC, 3- ; 3

Class 5 PHRF Non-Spinnaker A (7 boats)

1. 50011, Eider Down, Morris 51, Bruce Robinson, Buzzards Yacht Club, 1- ; 1
2. 51042, Panasea, 42, Kent Nicholas, Red Brook Harbor, 2- ; 2
3. 3744, Ballyhoo, J/44, Wes McMichael, Beverly Yacht Club, 3- ; 3

Class 6 PHRF Non-Spinnaker B (6 boats)

1. 21, Osprey, Alerion Express 38, James Swent, None, 1- ; 1
2. 41644, Toujours, Tartan 27, Brian Bush, Chatham YC, 2- ; 2
3. H64, Gadget, Hinckley 64, Andy and Amy Heyward, none, 3- ; 3

Class 7 PHRF Non-Spinnaker C (7 boats)

1. 22926, Caneel, Pearson 10M, Chip Hawkins, Barrington Yacht Club, 1- ; 1
2. 51353, Saylavee, Beneteau Oceanis 311, Peter Soule, Saquatucket, 2- ; 2
3. 92, Kinsale, Pearson P36-2, Allen Eddy, Plymouth, 3- ; 3

Class 8 Double-Handed (6 boats)

1. 18, Iniki, Alerion Express 38, Paul Stafford, EYC, 1- ; 1
2. 52844, Pilgrim, Alden 44, Mark Rice, NYYC/CCA, 2- ; 2
3. 10, Orpheus, Alerion Express 33, Sandy Vietor, Edgartown YC, 3- ; 3