

Edgartown Race Weekend

Team Spotlight & Race Insights

Eliot Shanabrook,
J 109 Hafa Adai

Hafa Adai's History at ERW

2021 will be our tenth consecutive around the island race. It's been particularly fun having a spirited rivalry racing against our sistership Raptor this past decade. Particularly memorable was finishing second to Secretary/Senator Kerry for the Great Venona Trophy in 2020, yes, we were disappointed, but makes for a great story! The finish against the USN Integrity in 2016 was incredibly dramatic, with fog rolling across Edgartown harbor against a dark sky we had our stopwatch going to calculate the handicap. Too close to call, alas when the results were posted we'd managed a class win by just 37 seconds.



Race Preparation

One year we rigged Hafa Adai with a second halyard and sheets for spinnaker peels given the number of sail changes possible around the island. Raptor and her crew not to be outdone showed up the next year with the same. Another year we had a full-on luffing dual under A3 Spinnaker off Menemsha. We've learned the importance of working the currents and that for any race will be both for and against. We've had tacking and gybing duals along the Chappaquiddick east shore, the lead changing by who's most recently advantaged (or less disadvantaged) by the current close to shore.



*Hafa Adai means "Hello" from
the Chamorro language of
Guam, USA*

Race Insights

The reach along South beach usually allows time for lunch, crew rotation and if you're lucky to spot a Portuguese man o' war or other sea creature. This race has the beauty of anywhere in the world along with navigation, strategy and boat handling challenges that makes it one of our favorites.