



## 'Round the Buoy Races Complete

EDGARTOWN, MASS., (July 20, 2017) — With four bullets in as many races, Chip Hawkins of Barrington, R.I. defended his PHRF Non-Spinnaker crown at Edgartown Race Weekend's 'Round-the-Buoy Races. The Race Weekend, hosted by Edgartown Yacht Club, featured 'Round-the-Buoy racing yesterday and today and tomorrow will host the traditional and historic 'Round-the-Island race plus a new 'Round-the-Sound race.

Hawkins sailed his C&C 41 *Caneel* smartly both Thursday and today, but yesterday was the most difficult, with only 4-5 knots on Vineyard Sound. "Not having wind isn't great, but we have a good crew and the Race Committee did an outstanding job," he said. "We got the boat going really well and were dialed in. Today's conditions were much better."



Clockwise from left: Class Winners *Caneel*, *Blackfish* and *Irie*. (Photos credit Cate Brown)

Principal Race Officer Ned Brooks agreed, saying today averaged 11.5-12 knots. “It was a classic, gorgeous Vineyard sailing day. Everything about it was delightful.”

Nantucket’s Ron Zarrella, who won the Classics class aboard his Taylor 49 *Blackfish*, also had all victories in all of his five races. He recounted yesterday’s first race in which he made the 90-minute time limit by just two seconds. “The wind has been variable, but suitable for our boat,” said Zarrella. “I raced against my friend (Donald Tofias aboard the W-Class yacht *Wild Horses*); his boat was pretty, mine was pretty, but the conditions favored mine.”



Classic yachts *Blackfish* (left) and *Wild Horses* before the start.  
(Photo credit Cate Brown)

Tofias, a classic yacht enthusiast who has sailed in Edgartown Race Weekend for many years, said that he plans to help expand the Classic class for next year. “Why wouldn’t I? It’s just a beautiful place to sail and we have these beautiful classic yachts to sail.”

Winning PHRF class, which had four races, was Newport, R.I.’s Brian Cunha and his team aboard the Kerr 55 *Irie 2*. The crew would have taken “best dressed” if there had been an award for it at the Mount Gay “Jump Up” party that followed the awards ceremony. They all (men and women alike) sported navy blue Bermuda shorts, knee-high socks, and blue blazers over embroidered white button-down shirts.

All three boats will compete in tomorrow’s ‘Round-the-Island Race.

“Last year’s ‘Round-the-Island race was like yesterday...painful because of light air,” said Hawkins, who had to drop out last year because of those conditions, “but we are supposed to see 7-15 knots, so that would be ideal. It looks promising.”

Hawkins won the Metcalf Trophy as a perpetual awarded to the overall winner of the two days in his class; Cunha and Zarrella both won the Ralph D. Osborne Trophy.

This evening, directly after the awards for the ‘Round-the-Buoys racing and the skippers’ meeting for the ‘Round-the-Island race, competitors enjoyed a barbecue dinner and energetic Mount Gay “Jump Up” party at the Edgartown Yacht Club’s waterfront clubhouse.



(end)