



### **“Me, a Distance Racer?”**

There are a slew of good reasons to compete in [Edgartown Race Weekend](#)’s ‘Round-the-Island Race (’RTI), but one resonates more than others with sailors who’ve always stuck with buoy racing: the one-day race is easy (and safe) to try on. One of America’s oldest distance races, the ‘RTI covers some 55 miles, but it’s not like an ocean race where you lose sight of land. In fact, the annual circumnavigation of Martha’s Vineyard – starting Saturday, June 21 at 0800 – passes in sight of seven lighthouses and the magnificent multi-colored cliffs of Gay Head, which are a national landmark. For safety, a yacht club support boat follows the entire race, [YB satellite tracking](#) gives officials and fans exact locations of the competitors, and in the case of light air, the race committee can appropriately shorten course so there are no late-night finishers.

“Easy,” however, is not to say the racing itself is unchallenging, says long-time participant Kent Lenci. “I enjoy trying to outwit the currents that wrap around Cape Poge and rip through Muskeget Channel. Gay Head never gets old, and I love the afternoon run along the north side of the island and the chaotic turn around West Chop.”

For more information and to register, go to <https://bit.ly/ERW2025Register>.