



Gotta Know the Back Story

If you're thinking of sailing in one of yacht racing's oldest distance events, you ought to understand why it stands the test of time. [Edgartown Race Weekend](#)'s 'Round-the-Island Race ('RTI), which will be 88 when it begins on Saturday, June 21, has been likened to the ever-popular Race Around the Isle of Wight, held annually on the course of the first America's Cup. The 'RTI's 55-mile course around Martha's Vineyard is only a few miles longer and both courses have views of cliffs, headlands, villages and open water. And the tidal currents and wind effects are notoriously important in both.

For several years, the 'RTI course extended to round Buzzards Bay Tower, but today it's back to the traditional island circumnavigation that has held its allure since 1938 when the coveted Venona Trophy (Best Corrected Time - Spinnaker Division) was first awarded by Edgartown Yacht Club's Commodore E. Jared Bliss. It was named after Bliss's ocean racing yacht, which won the Bermuda Race in 1908.

"The 'RTI is picturesque, challenging, and of a length that keeps veteran racing sailors intrigued while presenting first-timers with a perfect opportunity to try on offshore sailing for size," says Event Chair Hal Findlay.

Racing divisions are for PHRF Spinnaker, PHRF Non-Spinnaker, PHRF Doublehanded and Multi-Hull. For registration form, NOR and mooring link go to <https://bit.ly/ERW2025Register>. (First 50 paid entries are eligible for a free two-day mooring.)