



## Edgartown Yacht Club's Edgartown Race Weekend

### *Around the Island and a Whole Lot More*

EDGARTOWN, MASS., MARTHA'S VINEYARD (June 10, 2013)— U.S. Presidents and famous actors aren't the only ones who have discovered the appeal of Martha's Vineyard, the island (including the smaller Chappaquiddick Island) of 100 square miles located south of Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Famous for being an affluent summer colony, "The Vineyard" also is home to Edgartown Yacht Club and some of the Northeast's best sailboat racing, including the club's Edgartown Race Weekend, scheduled for Wednesday through Sunday, July 17-21. Hosting classes for IRC, PHRF, Double-Handed, Cruising and Classic sailboats, the weekend's centerpiece is the popular 54.7 nautical mile ['Round-the-Island Race'](#) (Saturday, July 20), originally inspired by the Race Around the Isle of Wight and attracting name sailors annually since 1938. The [Big Boat Buoy Races](#) (Thursday and Friday, July 18-19), added as a one-day event in 2012, have been expanded to two days for 2013, promising to similarly cultivate a devoted following of racing aficionados.



Rives Potts and his yacht *Carina* at the 2012 Newport Bermuda Race, where she won the St David's Lighthouse Trophy for a third time. *Carina* will be competing in Edgartown Yacht Club's Edgartown Race Weekend this year (Photo Credit Barry Pickthall/[www.pplmedia.com](http://www.pplmedia.com) and Charles Anderson/[www.pplmedia.com](http://www.pplmedia.com), respectively).

If "celebrity" can pertain to a racing sailboat, then Rives Potts' (Essex, Conn.) *Carina* could be the most fabulously exciting entrant to watch on Edgartown Race Weekend's red carpet. Built in 1969, the 48-foot McCurdy & Rhodes sloop has become one of the most recognized racing yachts sailing today, having made 12 Atlantic crossings and won, among other prestigious awards, the top trophy (St. David's Lighthouse) in the biennial Newport to Bermuda Race four times. (The last two times were back-to-back in 2010 and 2012 with Potts at the helm).

"I used to do the 'Round-the-Island Race a lot back in the '80s and '90s," said Potts, who will compete in IRC class, "and we enjoyed it a lot. This year, we want to do both segments with *Carina's* core crew of six

and fill in around that with six to seven juniors from the local area.” Potts said the idea came to him while talking with Edgartown Yacht Club’s Commodore Ned Brooks, and it fit right in with his *modus operandi*— maintained since 1996, when he became *Carina*’s owner— to sail with his two boys and friends who could bring along their own sons for the rides. “I like the father-son culture on board, and I would like to encourage other yacht owners to include younger sailors in their crew. If we are going to perpetuate the sport we love, we have to engage the young sailors. And besides, they are fun to have on board!”

Potts’s own sons, Allen and Walker, are now 29 and 28, respectively, and they will be present on *Carina* with their father to mentor the juniors during Edgartown Race Weekend.



Donald Tofias and his W-Class yacht *Wild Horses* will be racing in the newly introduced Classics division at Edgartown Race Weekend. (Photo Credit Billy Black and W-Class Yachts, respectively).

Also strutting some impressive stuff in Edgartown Race Weekend’s newly introduced Classics division will be Donald Tofias’s (Newport, R.I.) W-Class yacht *Wild Horses*. The 76-foot fractional sloop is actually considered a modern classic (roughly defined as looking like an old boat above the water but with modern appendages below the water), and Tofias says he would like to race against “other like-kind ‘Spirit of Tradition’ boats,” but if that does not transpire, his CRF (Classic Rating Formula) will allow him to sail fairly against the other classics.

Tofias first competed in the ‘Round-the-Island race in the early ‘70s, and in 2000 and 2004 posted the fastest elapsed time for the race (on *Wild Horses* and the W-76 *White Wings*, respectively). “We held on to the record for five years until *Rambler* (George David’s 90-footer, which has entered the race again this year) came along and stole it from us,” said Tofias. He called the clockwise circumnavigation of Martha’s Vineyard “challenging, beautiful, and full of great surprises.”

The ‘Round-the-Island race starts at 8 a.m. in the morning, and typically the fleet has all returned to the docks at Edgartown Yacht Club by dark. “Most of the sailing is done in fairly shallow water where the ocean warms up very quickly,” said Tofias, who also competed in last year’s Big Boat Buoy Races and again plans to compete in both segments that Edgartown Race Weekend offers. “There are a variety of conditions, where it’s windier closer to Edgartown because of the heat effect, then toward Nantucket

you might get light and variable, and then there are the tides to consider. It's one of my favorite around-island races."

Tofias explained that *Wild Horses* was in St. Barths this winter to race, and this summer it will compete in almost every event on the northeastern Classic Yacht Racing Circuit plus some superyacht regattas where Newport, Maine and Nantucket are venues in addition to Martha's Vineyard. "It's part of what we do. We go to the right places, with the right people, at the right time of year, and there's nothing better than being on the Vineyard in July."

Edgartown Race Weekend's social schedule includes a Welcome Reception on Wednesday, a Mount Gay sponsored "jump-up" on Friday, and Prize Givings on both Friday and Sunday, all to guarantee as memorable an experience ashore as on the water. Wednesday, July 17 is the entry deadline for Thursday and Friday's Big Boat Buoy Races, sanctioned as part of the prestigious U.S. IRC Gulf Stream Series, while Friday, July 19 is the entry for Saturday's 'Round-the-Island Race, part of the New England Lighthouse Series for PHRF yachts. The Big Boat Buoy Races and the 'Round-the-Island Race are scored separately and each have their own Notices of Race and entry forms; however, there is no additional entry fee to compete in the buoy races.

For NORs, more information and to register, visit [www.rtirace.org](http://www.rtirace.org).

#### **More about Edgartown Yacht Club**

Edgartown Yacht Club has a long history of providing exceptional yacht racing in the waters around Martha's Vineyard. With roots going back to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the club was officially founded in 1905 by racing members of the original "Home Club," to which many prominent summer and permanent residents—both racing and non-racing—belonged. The current clubhouse, completed in 1927, sits magnificently at the foot of Main Street, where in the days of old, the town's whaling ships berthed.

In 2013, Edgartown Yacht Club will host, in addition to Edgartown Race Weekend, its 90th Annual Regatta for one-design boats (July 11-13), the Farr 40 North American Championship (July 24-27), the Herreshoff 12.5 Championship (August 2-4), and the 20th running of the Annual 12 Metre Regatta (August 9-11). <http://www.edgartownyc.org>

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