



Edgartown Yacht Club's Edgartown Race Weekend

Something Fun for Everyone

EDGARTOWN, MASS., MARTHA'S VINEYARD (July 17, 2013)—The Big Boat Buoy Races that comprise the first segment of the annual Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend begin this Thursday, July 18 and continue through Friday, July 19 on Edgartown Outer Harbor and Nantucket Sound. Twenty nine boats in IRC and PHRF (Spinnaker, Non-spinnaker and Double-Handed) classes will convene on the water at 10 a.m. daily for multiple short-course races and finish with a Friday evening Prize Giving and Mount Gay “jump up” at host Edgartown Yacht Club before the club presents—Saturday morning at 8 a.m.—its renowned 'Round-the-Island Race. That event, which Edgartown Yacht Club first held in the summer of 1938, has been held every year since except for the years of World War II and is said to be reminiscent of the race around the Isle of Wight in England, which was the course for the first America's Cup. The 'Round-the-Island Race's 58-boat fleet—again separated into IRC, PHRF and Double-Handed classes--will sail around Martha's Vineyard and is expected to finish the 54.7 nautical mile course by late Saturday afternoon or early evening and enjoy a second and final Prize Giving on Sunday morning at Edgartown Yacht Club.



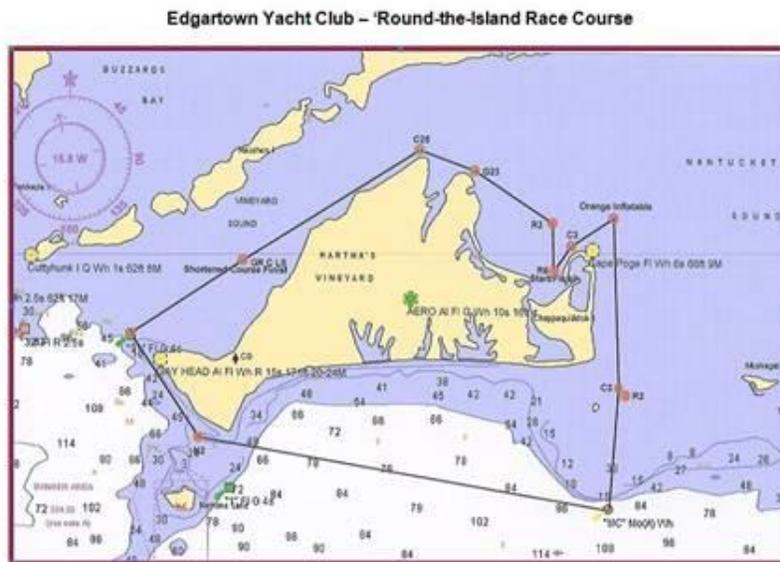
Jim Swartz's *Vesper* at last year's Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend (Photo Credit Michael Berwind)

For both segments of the event, Jim Swartz (Park City, Utah) and his crew from the TP 52 *Vesper* will be one of *the* teams to watch in IRC. Swartz has competed in the 'Round-the-Island Race seven times, winning his class in 2007 and 2010, and posting the best elapsed time (for the Concord Cup) among all classes in 2007 and 2011. He finished third in last year's first-ever

Big Boat Buoy Races (which were inaugurated as a one-day event but now play out over two days), and this year looks forward to competition from the Hanse 545 *Persevere* (Arthur Baer/Colin Rath, New York, N.Y.), the McCurdy and Rhodes 48 *Carina* (Rives Potts, Essex, Conn.) and the IRC 52 *Sled* (Takashi Okura, Montvale, N.J.).

“It will be very challenging IRC racing,” said Swartz, who has a second home on Martha’s Vineyard. “The buoy racing is fun and makes for a great warm-up for the ‘Round-the-Island.’”

As for the latter, it is one of Swartz’s favorite: “Each time it is different. It is a very tactically challenging race, and at the same time it’s hard not to be distracted by the sheer beauty of the island and the surrounding waters.”



The *Vesper* team, which has traveled the world to win countless national and international sailing regattas, enjoys the tactical challenges of a coastal race. “Constant adjustments to mode and numerous sail choices lead to great variety during the day, but there are long periods to reflect, take in the natural beauty and to enjoy your teammates,” he said, noting that the Reichel Pugh 44 *Miracle* (Michael Cashel, Hingham, Mass.); the 90-foot maxi yacht *Rambler* (George David, Hartford, Conn.), which won the Concord Cup in 2009; *Solution* (Carter Bacon, Cambridge, Mass.); and the First 44.7 *Slide Rule* (Scott Bearse, West Barnstable) will join the competition for this second segment of racing, adding yet more spice to the IRC mix. “This is anybody’s race. (In the past) we have been in first place for half the race and failed to place, and we have been in dead last place and won the race. All things are possible depending on the sequence of conditions, tidal change, and tactical choices.”



Richard Egan's class winning *Wings* at last year's Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend
(Photo Credit Michael Berwind)

The distance around Martha's Vineyard is but a few miles longer than around the Isle of Wight, with similar views of cliffs and headlands, villages and open water. Tidal currents and wind effects are important, and one team that will defend its title as master of both in the PHRF Spinnaker class will be Richard Egan's (Osterville, Mass.) aboard his J/46 *Wings*, which won its division overall last year.

"The 'Round-the-Island Race has been a tradition for my family since the '70s," said Egan, whose father used to race and whose wife, two sons, two brothers (with their sons in tow) and a nephew will sail as part of his 11-14 person crew this year. "We like how it is located chronologically in the middle of the summer sailing schedule."

Nevertheless, says Egan, it was hard for the working professionals on his crew to get time off from their jobs for the Big Boat Buoy Races, so he decided to team up with his 19-year-old son, Richard Egan III, to take a shot at the first-ever competition for Double-Handed (skipper and one mate) crews. "We'll try things for the first time, and hopefully in the end it won't kill us. We haven't done any double-handed sailing with the boat, but this make of boat has been used all over the place for it, so it clearly can be done."

Among Egan's double-handed competition in the Big Boat Buoy Races will be the event's Chairman Sal Giordano (Bernardsville, N.J.), sailing his Alerion 38 *Big Bird*, which he also will sail double-handed in the 'Round-the-Island Race. "Basically, with both around-the-buoys and distance racing offered, and classes included for both racers and cruisers as well as full and short-handed crews, there is something for just about everyone at this event," said Giordano, who won his class at last year's event.



Class start at last year's Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend (Photo Credit Michael Berwind)

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.

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 20th 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 hosts, 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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