



## 2016 Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend

### ***'Round-the-Island Race: Competitive and Compelling***

EDGARTOWN, MASS., (July 20, 2016) – The 10 best weekends of the year, especially if you live in New England, are upon us. Often we've dreamt of these days while shoveling mounds of snow or paying the heating bill. For sailors, especially, who look to combine competition with great camaraderie, there is no better way to spend one of these precious weekends than competing in Edgartown Yacht Club's Edgartown Race Weekend, which offers the option of racing 'Round-the-Buoys (Thursday and Friday, July 28-29) or 'Round-the-Island (Saturday, July 30), or both.

First held in 1938, Edgartown Yacht Club's 'Round the Island Race was inspired by a similar, albeit shorter, race around the Isle of Wight in England. With staggered starts by class (IRC, ORC, PHRF-NE Classic, One-Design, Multihull and Double-Handed) the fleet leaves Edgartown Harbor on a 54.7 mile course that takes it over Nantucket Sound, the Atlantic Ocean and Vineyard Sound, sailing past seven lighthouses while circumnavigating, clockwise, the 100 square mile island of Martha's Vineyard.



For Massachusetts resident Steve Dahill who races out of both Beverly Yacht Club (Marion) and Constitution Yacht Club (Boston) and has been participating in the 'Round-the-Island Race for six years, there are numerous reasons to make room for this event on his summer calendar.

"There is the beauty of racing around all the sights of Martha's Vineyard from the gentle slopes and beaches of Wasque, to the cliffs at Squibnocket, to the iconic rounding at Devils Bridge and Aquinnah," said Dahill. "Then there's great competition from boats we don't always see in our local club - from Nantucket, to Boston and the North Shore, from Newport and beyond - a real nice mix and we've met new friends. It also doesn't get more competitive or compelling: racing that far in one day is a marathon for most of us club racers and for many it is a goal that we think about and plan for all year. It's also an opportunity to race against the best. Seeing George David's *Rambler* rush by (in 2014) or the TP52s squeaking upwind with their pro teams...it's right out of *SAIL* or *Sailing World* magazines. Can the average golfer tee off with Jason Day? No, but at the

‘Round-the-Island Race you can be neck-and-neck with the best local and pro teams.’



Scenes from 2015: Edgartown Yacht Club's 'Round-the-Island Race.  
(photo credit MacDougalls' Boatyard/Michael Berwind)

With less than two weeks until the start of the 'Round-the-Island Race, 60 boats are registered. To date, the class with the largest number of entries – 22 – is PHRF, in which Dahill will find his J/35c *Riva* facing competition from, among others, three J/120s (Stephen McManus's Annapolis entry *Saykadoo*, Butch Joy's Mattapoisett entry *Kindred Spirits* and Stephen Besse's local entry *Apres*), a Farr 40 and Farr 44 (*Ranger* and *Integrity*, respectively) entered by the US Naval Academy Offshore Sailing Team, and a Swan 44 (Hyannis resident William Marsh's *Ruse*).

However, the IRC class will certainly be worthy of attention for its sheer star power alone. Among those racing will be 2015 Rolex Yachtsman of the Year Steven Benjamin (Norwalk, Conn.) aboard his TP52 *Spookie*, Jim Swartz (Park City, Utah) on his custom 52' *Vesper*, Arthur Santry and his team from Oakcliff Sailing aboard a Ker 50, and Richard Cohen's TP52 *Phoenix*, which will have noted yachtsman Paul Cayard at the helm.

Edgartown Yacht Club's Edgartown Race Weekend starts with the two-day 'Round-the-Buoy Races, which are entry free and open to boats racing with a PHRF, ORC, IRC or CRF rating. The Friday night "jump-up" sponsored by Mount Gay is held at Edgartown Yacht Club and follows the 'Round-the-Buoy awards presentations for winners of each day as well as overall for both days. Saturday's 'Round-the-Island Race is open to IRC, ORC, PHRF-NE (including spinnaker and non-spinnaker divisions), classic, one-design, multihull and double-handed boats. The 'Round-the-Island awards ceremony is on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. at Edgartown Yacht Club.

Info for the 'Round-the-Island Race, including entry fee, registration and NOR may be found online at [www.rtirace.org](http://www.rtirace.org), along with the separate NOR and registration for the 'Round-the-Buoy Races. For more information, contact [raceadministrator@edgartownyc.org](mailto:raceadministrator@edgartownyc.org). On Facebook follow [Edgartown Yacht Club Racing](https://www.facebook.com/EdgartownYachtClubRacing).

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