



2017 Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend

Any Way You Slice It, It's a Gem

EDGARTOWN, MASS., (July 16, 2017) — With early registrations up 35% over last year, [Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend](#) promises to make its 79th edition, set for Thursday through Saturday (July 20-22), one to remember. The event offers two days of buoy racing followed by a signature 56-mile 'Round-the-Island Race that started it all back in 1938. Expected are over 70 teams, including many veterans and – at press time – 16 new teams, which all have the choice of sailing one, two or all three days.

“We put extra effort into helping people with mooring reservations this year and getting them signed up early,” said Event Chair Hal Findlay. “It’s really an event where people have so much fun, and they spread the word to others about it and how wonderful the Vineyard is to visit.”



(from left) Bob Snyder at the wheel of Resolute (courtesy Bob Snyder), *Temptation Oakcliff* at last year's Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend (credit Bill Brine) [Click to download](#)

Bob Snyder is one of those who knows the event well. He has a home in Edgartown and has competed at Edgartown Race Weekend close to 20 times. This year, he will switch to a cruising spinnaker class after having sailed his Little Harbor 53 *Resolute* for 14 years in non-spinnaker. He and his team are choosing, as they always do, to only sail around the island on Saturday.

“*Resolute* is a cruising yacht that, once it gets going, can’t be stopped...but it takes a lot to get it going!” laughed Snyder. “If we get good wind and favorable tides, we do okay, but around the buoys is problematical. She’s too heavy to turn quickly, so we settle for watching those races. On the other hand, the ‘Round-the-Island Race is just a wonderful day of sailing for us, and it’s a great tradition.”

With a first warning signal at 8 a.m. Saturday morning, both the cruising and racing yachts typically finish by late afternoon or early Saturday evening. In the morning, the fleet sails between Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket along the east beach of Chappaquiddick. At midday they are in the open Atlantic Ocean with views of the south coast of the Vineyard. In the afternoon, rounding the cliffs of Gay Head, the fleet sails up Vineyard Sound. If the tidal currents or wind conditions make going slow, the Race Committee may shorten course to finish just north of Menemsha.

“Just going along the south shore is a real treat that not many people get to enjoy, because cruising sailors usually stick to the Sounds and Cape Cod Bay, said Snyder. “In a sense, it’s much like it was 100 years ago, because there’s not much development.”

While Snyder is a local diehard, more teams come from afar than from the island itself.

Arthur Santry, of Arlington, Va. and Newport, R.I. has skippered his Ker 50 *Temptation Oakcliff* in the last three Edgartown Race Weekends and will be one to beat in both the ‘Round-the-Buoy races and the ‘Round-the-Island Race. *Temptation Oakcliff* won its class and finished second overall at Block Island Race Week earlier this summer with its team of 15 sailors, close to half of whom were “Saplings” and “Acorns” from the Oakcliff Sailing program in Oyster Bay, N.Y. Many of these plus some fresh faces will sail with Santry in Edgartown.

“One of my friends on the boat said he’s never been on an amateur boat with such good crew work,” said Santry. “They are fantastic kids, ages 19, 20, 21...one’s from Spain, one’s

from Australia.... I can remember doing it at that age. It's just a ball to be out there with them."

Santry used to do the 'Round-the-Island Race back in the '80s with his father, whose boats also bore the name *Temptation*. "I know a lot of people, the race committee runs a really good regatta, and the yacht club is extremely welcoming, so it's a ton of fun."



Edgartown Yacht Club during the 2016 Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend (courtesy EYC/Barby MacGowan)

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More About Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend

Regularly attracting entrants from the Eastern Seaboard and beyond, Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend delivers exceptional racing opportunities for boats 28 feet and longer in classes for IRC, ORC, ORR, PHRF (spinnaker and non-spinnaker divisions), Double-Handed, and Classic. A Mount Gay-sponsored "jump-up" party on Friday night and prize givings on both Friday and Sunday (July 23) round out the schedule for competitors who are entered in one or the other, or both, of the racing sessions.

Deadline for entry is Wednesday, July 19 for the 'Round-the-Buoy Races (click [here](#) to register) and Friday, July 21 for the 'Round-the-Island Race (click [here](#) to register). A registration fee is required for the 'Round-the-Island Race; the 'Round-the-Buoy Races are free. For more information, go to <http://www.RTIRace.org> or contact raceadministrator@edgartownyc.org.

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