



2017 Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend

Two Sides to Every Story

EDGARTOWN, MASS., (May 30, 2017) — Sailors of every age and inclination have something to look forward to at [Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend](#), which is scheduled for Thursday, July 20 through Saturday, July 22 on Martha's Vineyard. In two days of 'Round-the-Buoy Races ('RTB) and a third day of distance racing on a separately scored 56 nautical-mile 'Round-the-Island Race ('RTI), sailors can relish tough competition against star-quality local and visiting teams while indulging in the extraordinary surroundings of a "cool" yacht club and even cooler race experience in an island setting.



Skipper Cameron Tougas and the URI Keelboat team aboard *Kanga* in last year's Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend
(photo credit: Jan Harley)

"We've spent the last two years coming up with good regattas such as Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend, Figawi and Buzzard's Bay Regatta, to attend in the summer and get us ready for our big events at school in the

fall,” said Tougas, who skippers *Kanga*. “Because ’RTI is a relatively long race, we get a little bit of everything. After the start, we deal with current and just about every wind direction; we have to make sail changes and maneuvers quickly. It’s a great team bonding event, and honestly, it’s great competition, so we have to be on top of our game. Last year, we sailed really well but weather conditions were difficult, which is all part of it.”

Tougas says he regrets that he and his teammates can’t take off from their summer jobs to compete in the ’RTB, but they are counting down the days to the ’RTI.

“Everyone at EYC is so accommodating,” said Tougas. “It’s a really awesome establishment, with great people who run the event. We know well in advance what to expect, and we look forward to, before and after the race, just hanging out at the yacht club – it’s so cool and unique and beautiful.”

On the other end of the age spectrum, Irishman Richard Sides, who will soon be 81, has sailed the ’RTI ever since 2008 and skippered to win its Double-Handed Class last year. He lives in Marblehead and enjoys the “expedition” of bringing his Sabre 28 *Atalanta* over to the island on its own keel to race, which typically takes him more than 15 hours. Usually with him is crewmate Elke Backman (also from Marblehead); although, his son Robert Sides sailed with him last year in the event.



Atalanta Skipper Richard Sides will defend his victory in Double-Handed Class at this year’s Edgartown Yacht Club Race Weekend. (Photo courtesy Richard Sides)

“I spent all my life managing people by the dozens, so when I took to serious sailing, I decided managing people was one of the things I’d retire from,” said Sides. “I didn’t pick a boat that takes eight or nine people to sail; I picked a boat I could sail short-handed.”

Although he sailed in the ’RTB Races one year and enjoyed it, Sides really loves the adventure and the perfect length of the ’RTI Race, which passes over Nantucket Sound, the Atlantic Ocean and Vineyard Sound, and by the seven lighthouses of Cape Poge, Gay Head, Tarpaulin Cove, Nobska, West Chop, East Chop and Edgartown as it circumnavigates the 100 square miles that make up Martha’s Vineyard.

“It starts early in the morning, and if the wind is good you’re done before sunset,” he said. “And yes, I participate in the ‘Jump Up’ on Friday night at the club.”

As for this year, Sides hasn’t yet named his crew. “Elke has bought herself her own Frers 36, so we have to see whether I race against her or we team up and do it on my boat again.”

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 Welcome Reception on Wednesday night (July 19); 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.RTlrace.org> or contact raceadministrator@edgartownyc.org.

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