



Storm Trysail Club Block Island Race Week XXIV Presented by Rolex

Race Day Lost, Day Off Gained

Block Island, R.I., (June 22, 2011) – It didn't matter that the sun wasn't out, just that there was a slight promise the wind would blow on this third day of the Storm Trysail Club's (STC) biennial Block Island Race Week XXIV presented by Rolex. The Race Committee sent the event's fleet of 134 boats off to sail in 14 classes on Block Island Sound, but when the wind failed to deliver, it returned the competitors to wait ashore for further instructions and at 1:00 decided it best to cancel racing altogether for the day.

"Between the lack of wind and a squall getting ready to roll over the island, it was the prudent thing to do," said Principal Race Officer Dave Brennan, noting that light air also caused postponements ashore on Monday and Tuesday but allowed for racing in the afternoons nevertheless. Unfortunately, the front passing today would have only rain to offer and nothing behind it wind-wise.

"It is what it is," said Kevin Burnham (Coconut Grove, Fla.), a Rolex Yachtsman of the Year and 470 Men's Olympic Gold Medalist sailing in IRC 2 aboard Jack Lefort's (Stuart, Fla.) *After Midnight*. "We're here for fun, not for sailing in the rain, so they made the right decision."

That might have been easy to say back on shore, but action on the water in this class has been painting a fiercely competitive picture. *After Midnight* is a Tripp 41 chartered by LeFort and owned by Steve and Heidi Benjamin (Norwalk, Conn.), who are sailing their Custom 41 *High Noon* in the same class. (Burnham playfully pointed out that the respective sail numbers, US 1201 and US 1200, are a play off the two boat names.) Both teams are champion material, but they are in eighth and fifth, respectively, and Lawrence Dickie's (Greenwich, Conn.) Ker 43 *Ptarmigan* is seemingly unstoppable, leading with three bullets in as many races.

For Henry Little (Newport, R.I.) aboard Charlie Milligan's (also Newport) *Act One*, currently fifth in IRC 4, having the afternoon off wasn't such a bad prospect, even though a few races today would have bettered the boat's chances of catching up with class leader *Settler*, owned by Tom Rich (Middletown, R.I.).

"Block Island is a wonderland for things to do," said Little, who soon began planning with David Doody (Bedford, N.Y.), a crew member off Bill Clemen's (Riverside, Conn.) *Coyote* in IRC 3, to buy a clam rake for \$64 dollars and a one-week clamming license for \$20 in order to dig up a raw bar of Little Necks, Quahogs and Steamers. "Eighty four dollars for as much fun in the mud as you can have?," he joked, "I'd say that's a good deal."

Doody said *Coyote* hasn't been faring as well as his team would have wished on the race course (they are currently tenth), "but today I can say we held our own, and if we can get a couple o' dozen littlenecks ahead of the game, we'll be in good shape."

Tomorrow, more rain is in the forecast for the morning, and light air is anticipated after that. Dave Brennan said that Race Week's Around the Island Race, which is traditionally held on Wednesday, might be held on Friday. "That's the last day with sufficient enough wind to possibly get the boats around," he said.

Racing concludes Friday for the five-day competition, which is hosting IRC (four classes), PHRF (five classes) and One-Design (Farr, NYYC Swan 42, J/44, J/109 and J/105) racing. The event is also serving as the 2011 IRC East Coast Championship, the J/122 National Championship (with the contenders sailing in IRC 3), and the J/109 East Coast Championship.

Today was Rolex Race Day, and Gowrie Group and *Sailing World* co-hosted the post-racing party under the "Big Top" Race Week tent, where nightly awards and daily highlight videos by T2p.tv are enjoyed. (The daily highlights are also broadcast on-line at www.blockislandraceweek.com and www.t2p.tv each night by 9pm)

Race headquarters for the 2011 Block Island Race Week presented by Rolex are located at The Oar Restaurant. Sponsors are Rolex, Toyota, Caithness Energy, Mount Gay Rum, Vineyard Vines, ING Clarion, Gill, Gowrie Group, UK-Halsey Sailmakers, Bitter End Yacht Club, New England Ropes, Hall Spars, Fiji Waters, West Marine, Robert Oatley Vineyards, Heineken, Sailing World, and WindCheck.

A Rolex timepiece will be raffled off at the end of the event along with a trip to the Bitter End Yacht Club in Virgin Gorda to benefit the Block Island Rescue Squad, Block Island Maritime Institute and the Block Island Early Learning Center. (In 2009, this Race Week Raffle raised more than \$16,000 for Block Island charities.) As well, a bid to the 25th Anniversary Pro Am Regatta at Bitter End Yacht Club will be won by one lucky Race Week class winner drawn from among all class winners on closing night.

For more information, visit www.blockislandraceweek.com where WindCheck magazine's Daily Race Week News can be read online. Video Follow us on facebook and twitter @BIRWXXIV.

About Rolex Watch U.S.A.

Since Rolex Watch U.S.A. first presented timepieces to America's Cup defenders in 1958, the company has consistently recognized and encouraged excellence in every important arena of competitive sailing, including elite athlete preparation, US SAILING championships, disabled sailing, and offshore, one-design and women's events.

Block Island Race Week presented by Rolex joins other prestigious Rolex-sponsored events in 2011 including the Rolex Miami OCR, Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup, Rolex Fastnet Race, Rolex Farr 40 World Championship, Rolex Big Boat Series, Rolex International Women's Keelboat Championship, Rolex Osprey Cup and the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

About Storm Trysail Club

Reflecting in its name the sail to which sailors must shorten when facing adverse conditions, the Storm Trysail Club is one of the world's most respected sailing clubs, with its membership comprised strictly of skilled blue water and ocean racing sailors. www.stormtrysail.org.

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(top-three results from Day Two follow)

**Storm Trysail Club Block Island Race Week XXIV Presented by Rolex
June 20-24, 2011
From Day Two, Top-three Results**

Cruising Non-spinnaker (PHRF - 5 Boats)

1. Patience, C&C 36, Jim Goldman , West Hartford, CT, USA - 3, 1, ; 4
2. Crackerjack, Cambria 40, Alan Krulisch , Arlington, VA, USA - 1, 3, ; 4
3. Manitou, C&C 110, Greg Slamowitz , New York, NY, USA - 2, 2, ; 4

PHRF 3 (PHRF - 10 Boats)

1. Hustler, J 29, John & Tony Esposito , Mohegan Lake, NY, USA - 1, 2, 5, ; 8
2. Incommunicado, Omega 36, Tracey / Polk , Severna Park, MD, USA - 2, 5, 2, ; 9
3. Rival, Taylor 38, David Curtis , Marblehead, MA, USA - 3, 6, 1, ; 10

PHRF 4 (PHRF - 10 Boats)

1. En Charette, Noe 27, Paul Jennings , Branford, CT, USA - 3, 3, 2.5, ; 8.5
2. Project Mayhem, Santana 30, Doug & Amy Stryker , Cranford, NJ, USA - 7, 1, 1, ; 9
3. Rumor, J 80, John Storck Jr , Huntington, NY, USA - 1, 2, 6, ; 9

IRC 1 (IRC - 7 Boats)

1. Vesper, TP 52, Jim Swartz , Park City, UT, USA - 1, 1, 1, ; 3
2. PowerPlay, TP 52, Peter Cunningham , George Town, Grand Cayman, CAY - 3, 3, 2, ; 8
3. Flying Jenny 7, TP 52, David & Sandra Askew , Annapolis, MD, USA - 2, 4, 3, ; 9

IRC 2 (IRC - 9 Boats)

1. Ptarmigan, Ker 43, Lawrence Dickie , Greenwich, CT, USA - 1, 1, 1, ; 3
2. Cool Breeze, Mills 43, John Cooper , Springfield, MO, USA - 2, 2, 6, ; 10
3. Convictus Maximus, Farr 42, Donald Nicholson , Scotch Plains, NJ, USA - 3, 4, 4, ; 11

IRC 3 (IRC - 13 Boats)

1. Avalanche, Farr 395, Craig Albrecht , Sea Cliff, NY, USA - 2, 5, 1, ; 8
2. Sarah, X 41, Gregory Manning , Warwick, RI, USA - 5.5, 2, 2, ; 9.5
3. Wings, J 122, Mike Bruno / Tom Boyle / Jim Callahan , Irvington, NY, USA - 7, 1, 4, ; 12

IRC 4 (IRC - 10 Boats)

1. Settler, Peterson 42, Thomas Rich , Middletown, RI, USA - 1, 4, 1, ; 6
2. Troubador, Express 37, Jamie Anderson , New York, NY, USA - 2, 1, 3, ; 6
3. Out of Reach III, X-35, Louis Nees , Erdenheim, PA, USA - 5, 3, 2, ; 10

NYYC Swan 42 (One Design - 13 Boats)

1. Daring, NYYC Swan 42, John Hele , Newport, RI, USA - 4, 2, 3, ; 9
2. Blazer, NYYC Swan 42, Chris Culver , New York, NY, USA - 1, 3, 6, ; 10
3. Apparition, NYYC Swan 42, Kenneth Colburn , Dover, MA, USA - 5, 1, 5, ; 11

Farr OD (PHRF - 8 Boats)

1. Tsunami, Farr 40, Preben Ostberg/Todd Olds/ Bud Dailey , Rockville, MD, USA - 1, 1, 3, ; 5
2. Barking Mad, Farr 30, James Richardson , Boston, MA, USA - 2, 4, 1, ; 7
3. Nightshift, Farr 40, Kevin McNeil , Annapolis, MD, USA - 3, 2, 2, ; 7

J 44 (One Design - 5 Boats)

1. Challenge IV, J 44, Jeffrey W. Willis , Huntington, NY, USA - 1, 3, 1, ; 5
2. Maxine, J 44, William Ketcham , Greenwich, CT, USA - 2, 1, 2, ; 5
3. Resolute, J 44, Don and Rick Rave , Huntington Bay, NY, USA - 4, 2, 3, ; 9

J 109 (One Design - 15 Boats)

1. Rush, J 109, Bill Sweetser , Annapolis, MD, USA - 2, 1, 1, ; 4
2. Dragonfly, J 109, Skip Young , Guilford, CT, USA - 6, 2, 4, ; 12
3. Caminos, J 109, Donald Filippelli , Amagansett, NY, USA - 7, 4, 2, ; 13

J 105 (One Design - 13 Boats)

1. Eclipse, J 105, Damian Emery , Shoreham, NY, USA - 1, 1, 1, ; 3
2. Jouster, J 105, Bruce Stone Julian Croxall , San Francisco, CA, USA - 2, 3, 3, ; 8
3. Shakedown, J 105, Jordan Mindich , Huntington Bay, NY, USA - 5, 2, 2, ; 9

PHRF 1 (PHRF - 7 Boats)

1. Jammy Beggar, Melges 32, Tom Lee , Essex, CT, USA - 1, 1, 3, ; 5
2. Partnership, J 111, David / MaryEllen Tortorello , Fairfield, CT, USA - 2, 2, 2, ; 6
3. Wicked 2.0, J 111, Douglas Curtiss , South Dartmouth, MA, USA - 4, 4, 1, ; 9

PHRF 2 (PHRF - 9 Boats)

1. Whirlwind, Beneteau First 36.7, William Purdy , New York, NY, USA - 3, 2, 3, ; 8
2. Freightrain, Frers 36, Dick Hyde , Belmont, MA, USA - 7, 1, 1, ; 9
3. XLR8, Carrera 280, Brad Porter , Westbrook, CT, USA - 1, 3, 5, ; 9