



Storm Trysail Club Block Island Race Week XXIV Presented by Rolex

A Finish on a High Note

Block Island, R.I., (June 24, 2011) – Two races provided a solid finish today for the Storm Trysail Club's (STC) biennial Block Island Race Week XXIV presented by Rolex and determined IRC, PHRF and One-Design winners in 14 classes along with titlists for the 2011 IRC East Coast Championship, the J/122 National Championship and the J/109 East Coast Championship. After a slow start on Monday and Tuesday, when light wind conditions postponed racing until late afternoon, officials cancelled racing altogether on Wednesday but then amped up again on Thursday with a lively running of the event's traditional Around the Island Race. Light air was the soup of the day again today, but none of the more than 1,000 sailors here seemed to mind—they just wanted one final chance to make some power plays and enjoy their last moments on tiny Block Island at one of the country's most beloved and classic of sailing competitions.

Jim Swartz's (Park City, Utah) IRC 52 *Vesper* won **IRC 1** class on the merit of five victories in six races and the 2011 IRC East Coast Championship by having the fastest average corrected speed from among all IRC-rated boats competing. The team's only performance flaw seemed to come in yesterday's Around the Island Race when it fouled a boat from another class at the start, did its penalty turn, and slugged to fifth. In the meantime, Austin and Gwen Fragomen's (Newport, R.I.) JV 52 *Interlodge* won the race to move into third overall and today made a heroic bid at dethroning *Vesper* but only managed to move itself to second overall with finish positions of 2-4 while *Vesper* won both races.

"In our class we had all 52 footers, so the competition was side-by-side a lot," said America's Cup veteran Gavin Brady (Annapolis, Md.), who stepped in today to drive when Swartz had to leave the island early. "Today, we won the start of the first race, so that was pretty easy, and we won the race by two to three minutes. The second race was closer, and it was only on the third leg that we took the lead. We all finished within one and a half minutes of each other, so after an hour of sailing, that's pretty close."

Brady added that Swartz is especially pleased with becoming the 2011 IRC East Coast Champion. "He has spent a lot of time on this 52 program, and it fits well with us right now...the team...the chemistry...all stars are in line at the moment."

Peter Cunningham's (George Town, Grand Cayman, CAY) *PowerPlay*, fell from second to third after today's action, equal on points with *Interlodge* but losing to a tiebreaker. *Interlodge* was awarded a Rolex Oyster Perpetual Submariner timepiece for its top IRC performance in the Around the Island Race while *Vesper* received the IRC East Coast Championship Clarion Partners Trophy.

Lawrence Dickie's (Greenwich, Conn.) Ker 43 *Ptarmigan* had a perfect four-race score line up until today, when it finished 2-2; however, the performance was still good for a victory in **IRC 2** with a whopping 15-point margin over John Cooper's (Springfield, MO) Mills 43 *Cool Breeze*. Dickie was awarded a Rolex Oyster Perpetual Submariner timepiece for turning in the best performance in Red Fleet, and his team manager and crew member Chad Corning (Larchmont, N.Y.) called the team's results, "the best we could ask for."

The **J/122s** competed for their national title while sailing in the **IRC 3** class, and while it was Mike Bruno/Tom Boyle/Jim Callahan's (Irvington, N.Y.) *Wings* that moved into the top three after day two to finish second and snatch that trophy, it was Craig Albrecht's (Sea Cliff N.Y.) Farr 395 *Avalanche* that topped the class overall, which was no small achievement with 13 boats competing.

Bill Sweetser (Annapolis, Md.) was admiring his trophy for winning the **J/109** East Coast Championship even before the Awards Presentation. "We brought it with us because we won it last year," he said, "so I guess we deliver it back to the organizers and they turn around and give it back to us. This is the first time anyone has won it twice in a row." Sweetser's entry *Rush* led the 15-boat J/109 class from day two and entered this final day with eight points over Donald Filippelli's (Amagansett, N.Y.) *Caminos*. "After the first race we put one more point between us and *Caminos*, and in the second race we knew if we were conservative and stayed close to them we could win." Sweetser appreciated the tough competition and said it was great preparation for the J/109 North Americans in Annapolis in October, adding, "We'd love to see all these boats there." Sweetser also was presented with a Rolex timepiece for best performance among boats competing in the Blue and White Fleets combined.

Jim Richardson's (Boston, Mass./Newport, R.I.) Farr 30 *Barking Mad* took a tumble today in **Farr OD** class when Preben Ostberg/Todd Olds/ Bud Dailey's (Rockville, Md.) Farr 40 *Tsunami* finished 2-1 to its 1-4 and replaced it at the top of the scoreboard. "We were one point behind Jim going into the day and two points behind him after the first race, so it was exciting," said Todd Olds. "And especially because Jim is a Farr 40 (multiple world) champion, he sets the standard." Olds explained that with *Tsunami* having a longer waterline, his team had an advantage of going faster and sailing in clearer air, but *Barking Mad* frequently corrected out ahead of them, like he did in race one today. "The ratings are amazingly close, and we knew we had to win the second race to win the regatta. We did that and then learned that Jim had one of his worst finishes." (Both teams had three victories in six races and no finishes worse than fourth.)

Damian Emery's (Shoreham, N.Y.) *Eclipse* won the **J/105 class**, with 13 boats competing. His main trimmer and tactician George Ryan (East Northport, N.Y.) said the victory was far from easy. "We started dead last in the Around the Island Race and had to work to third," he said, also pointing out that today's first-race victory was counterbalanced with a seventh.

Jeffrey Willis's (Huntington, N.Y.) *Challenge IV* finished 4-1 today in **J/44** class to keep its place at the top of the scoreboard. The team had a total of four victories in its six-race series and led from day one. "We tend to be better when the wind blows harder," said Willis, "but everyone can have their day." Counting back, Willis revealed he won this event in 2009 as well as 2007. His closest competition here was William Ketcham's (Greenwich, Conn.) *Maxine*.

Ken Colburn (Dover, Mass.), skipper of *Apparition*, said any one of the top five boats in **NYYC Swan 42** class could have won the regatta on this last day. His team managed the overall victory by winning the first race "for some breathing room" and then "digging back hard" in the second race (for a fourth). "We won here in this class two years ago, too, but it was harder this time; the competition was superb, any errors were costly," he said, adding that teams here are preparing for July's North Americans and September's New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup, the latter for which *Apparition* is hoping to win a U.S. berth. "Those are reasons there is strong class representation here, but also it's a well-run class with a Corinthian spirit that is the right package for a lot of people."

Another return winner is Brad Porter (Westbrook, Conn.) in **PHRF 2**, skippering his Carrera 280 *XLR8*. In fact, this is his third Block Island Race Week in a row that he has won (he won in 2007 with the same boat), but the victory was hard fought. "After Tuesday, *Whirlwind* was one point ahead of us and we were tied with *Freight Train* on points for second," said Porter, explaining that by winning the Around the Island Race his team then moved into first. "We only won two races for the week, so that shows it was tough."

In **Cruising Non-Spinnaker**, with one race today, Greg Slamowitz's (New York, N.Y.) *Manitou* edged past yesterday's leader, Jim Goldman's (West Hartford, Conn.) *Patience*, to win.

Winning handily in **IRC 4** was Tom Rich's (Middletown, R.I.) Peterson 42 *Settler*, while **PHRF 1, 3 and 4** were won respectively by Tom Lee's (Essex, Conn.) Melges 32 *Jammy Beggar*, John and Tony Esposito's (Mohegan Lake, N.Y.) J/29 *Hustler*, and John Storck Jr.'s (Huntington, N.Y.) J/80 *Rumor*

Today was Prestige Toyota Race Day, and UK-Halsey Sailmakers hosted the post-racing party under the "Big Top" Race Week tent, where nightly awards and daily highlight videos by T2p.tv were enjoyed. (The daily highlights are also broadcast on-line at www.blockislandraceweek.com and www.t2p.tv each night by 9 p.m.)

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. Scoring is by Yacht Scoring (www.yachtscoring.com).

For more information, visit www.blockislandraceweek.com. 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.

(end)

(top-three final results follow)

Storm Trysail Club Block Island Race Week XXIV Presented by Rolex

June 20-24, 2011

FINAL, Top-three Results

Cruising Non-spinnaker (PHRF - 5 Boats)

1. Manitou, C&C 110, Greg Slamowitz , New York, NY, USA - 2, 2, 2, 1, ; 7
2. Patience, C&C 36, Jim Goldman , West Hartford, CT, USA - 3, 1, 1, 4, ; 9
3. Crackerjack, Cambria 40, Alan Krulisch , Arlington, VA, USA - 1, 3, 4, 3, ; 11

PHRF 3 (PHRF - 10 Boats)

1. Hustler, J 29, John & Tony Esposito , Mohegan Lake, NY, USA - 1, 2, 5, 3, 2, 1, ; 14
2. Mighty Puffin, J 29, Steve Thurston , Bristol, RI, USA - 5, 1, 4, 2, 1, 2, ; 15
3. Rival, Taylor 38, David Curtis , Marblehead, MA, USA - 3, 6, 1, 1, 3, 5, ; 19

PHRF 4 (PHRF - 10 Boats)

1. Rumor, J 80, John Storck Jr , Huntington, NY, USA - 1, 2, 6, 1, 1, 4, ; 15
2. Project Mayhem, Santana 30, Doug & Amy Stryker , Cranford, NJ, USA - 7, 1, 1, 9, 2, 3, ; 23
3. Stealth, Evelyn 26, Jay Greenfield , Groton, CT, USA - 4, 6, 7, 2, 5, 2, ; 26

IRC 1 (IRC - 7 Boats)

1. Vesper, TP 52, Jim Swartz , Park City, UT, USA - 1, 1, 1, 5, 1, 1, ; 10
2. Interlodge, JV 52, Austin and Gwen Fragomen , Newport, RI, USA - 5, 2, 5, 1, 2, 4, ; 19
3. PowerPlay, TP 52, Peter Cunningham , George Town, Grand Cayman, CAY - 3, 3, 2, 2, 7, 2, ; 19

IRC 2 (IRC - 9 Boats)

1. Ptarmigan, Ker 43, Lawrence Dickie , Greenwich, CT, USA - 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, ; 8
2. Cool Breeze, Mills 43, John Cooper , Springfield, MO, USA - 2, 2, 6, 2, 5, 6, ; 23
3. High Noon , CTM 41, Steve & Heidi Benjamin , Norwalk, CT , USA - 4, 8, 3, 4, 1, 5, ; 25

IRC 3 (IRC - 13 Boats)

1. Avalanche, Farr 395, Craig Albrecht , Sea Cliff, NY, USA - 2, 5, 1, 2, 2, 1, ; 13
2. Wings, J 122, Mike Bruno / Tom Boyle / Jim Callahan , Irvington, NY, USA - 7, 1, 4, 1, 7, 2, ; 22
3. Sarah, X 41, Gregory Manning , Warwick, RI, USA - 5.5, 2, 2, 11, 1, 4, ; 25.5

IRC 4 (IRC - 10 Boats)

1. Settler, Peterson 42, Thomas Rich , Middletown, RI, USA - 1, 2, 1, 3, 2.5, 1, ; 10.5
2. ACT ONE, Summit 35, Charles Milligan , Newport, RI, USA - 3, 6, 4, 1, 1, 6, ; 21
3. Troubador, Express 37, Jamie Anderson , New York, NY, USA - 2, 1, 3, 6, 7, 5, ; 24

NYYC Swan 42 (One Design - 13 Boats)

1. Apparition, NYYC Swan 42, Kenneth Colburn , Dover, MA, USA - 5, 1, 5, 2, 1, 4, ; 18
2. Daring, NYYC Swan 42, John Hele , Newport, RI, USA - 4, 2, 3, 7, 2, 3, ; 21
3. Blazer, NYYC Swan 42, Chris Culver , New York, NY, USA - 1, 3, 6, 8, 3, 7, ; 28

Farr OD (PHRF - 8 Boats)

1. Tsunami, Farr 40, Preben Ostberg/Todd Olds/ Bud Dailey , Rockville, MD, USA - 1, 1, 3, 4, 2, 1, ; 12
2. Barking Mad, Farr 30, James Richardson , Boston, MA, USA - 2, 4, 1, 1, 1, 4, ; 13
3. Nightshift, Farr 40, Kevin McNeil , Annapolis, MD, USA - 3, 2, 2, 2, 5, 2, ; 16

J 44 (One Design - 5 Boats)

1. Challenge IV, J 44, Jeffrey W. Willis , Huntington, NY, USA - 1, 3, 1, 1, 4, 1, ; 11
2. Maxine, J 44, William Ketcham , Greenwich, CT, USA - 2, 1, 2, 2, 5, 3, ; 15
3. Resolute, J 44, Don and Rick Rave , Huntington Bay, NY, USA - 4, 2, 3, 3, 2, 2, ; 16

J 109 (One Design - 15 Boats)

1. Rush, J 109, Bill Sweetser , Annapolis, MD, USA - 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 5, ; 13
2. Caminos, J 109, Donald Filippelli , Amagansett, NY, USA - 7, 4, 2, 1, 3, 1, ; 18
3. Storm, J 109, Rick Lyall , Wilton, CT, USA - 5, 5, 8, 4, 1, 2, ; 25

J 105 (One Design - 13 Boats)

1. Eclipse, J 105, Damian Emery , Shoreham, NY, USA - 1, 1, 1, 3, 1, 7, ; 14
2. Joust, J 105, Bruce Stone Julian Croxall , San Francisco, CA, USA - 2, 3, 3, 1, 7, 2, ; 18
3. Shakedown, J 105, Jordan Mindich , Huntington Bay, NY, USA - 5, 2, 2, 2, 4, 3, ; 18

PHRF 1 (PHRF - 7 Boats)

1. Jammy Beggar, Melges 32, Tom Lee , Essex, CT, USA - 1, 1, 3, 1, 1, 4, ; 11
2. Partnership, J 111, David / MaryEllen Tortorello , Fairfield, CT, USA - 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 1, ; 13
3. Wicked 2.0, J 111, Douglas Curtiss , South Dartmouth, MA, USA - 4, 4, 1, 2, 4, 2.5, ; 17.5

PHRF 2 (PHRF - 9 Boats)

1. XLR8, Carrera 280, Brad Porter , Westbrook, CT, USA - 1, 3, 5, 1, 2, 3, ; 15
2. Freighttrain, Frers 36, Dick Hyde , Belmont, MA, USA - 7, 1, 1, 5, 3, 5, ; 22
3. Swift, Navy 44, Graham Tyson , Annapolis, MD, USA - 2, 7, 2, 4, 7, 1, ; 23