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THREE CREWS POST PERFECT SCORES ON DAY 1 AT STORM TRYSAIL CLUB'S BLOCK ISLAND RACE WEEK

NEW SHOREHAM, R.I. (June 22, 2015) – Competitors in the Storm Trysail Club's 50th anniversary Block Island Race Week were in near unanimous agreement about the first day of racing – the conditions were idyllic.

"It couldn't have been better. A perfect breeze," said Rick Rave, co-owner of the J/44 *Resolute*.

"It doesn't get much better than this," said Geoff Ewenson, tactician on the C&C 30 *Themis*.

In westerly winds ranging from 8 to 20 knots, the race committees on all three racing circles were able to complete three races in quick order. The first races were underway by 11:05 a.m. and the last finishers were done by 4:00 p.m. Reports on tidal effects were varied with some sailors reporting negligible effects while others were reporting more.

In such ideal conditions three boats were able to pull off perfect days. Andrew and Linda Weiss scored three 1sts aboard *Christopher Dragon* in IRC 2, as did Iris Vogel's *Deviation* in the J/88 Class and *Themis* in the C&C 30 Class.

"This is my first year racing," said Walt Thirion, owner of *Themis*. "I had a cruising boat and saw the C&C 30 racing last year and thought that it looked like fun. I like the one-design aspect because your result comes down to crew work and what you can do on the racecourse."

"We saw a low windspeed of 11-12 knots and a top of 16," said Ewenson. "The boat just comes alive in the upper range; it feels a lot like a big boat. We played around with the headstay in the changing wind strength."

The boat name *Christopher Dragon* is very familiar in New England racing circles, having been around since 1975 when Stephen Weiss first raced Block Island Race Week. Stephen's son Andrew and his wife Linda won IRC 3 in 2013 with a J/130. This year they're racing a Sydney 43 that they launched last year. Andrew Weiss said the key to victory was pre-season preparation and longevity as a crew. It helped them overcome an OCS in Race 3 to post the perfect scoreline.



“We did a lot of work on the bottom before this season and also spent a lot of time tuning the rig,” said Weiss. “Today we were able to keep our lanes clean on the racecourse and had good crew work. The boat lights up when the wind gets over 15 knots. We had tight racing all day.”

Seven other crews won two of the three races, including Gunther Buerman’s 52-footer *Hooligan* in IRC 1, James Blakemore’s *Music* (Swan 53) in IRC 4, Dax Ansley and his U.S. Naval Academy crew on *Ranger* (Farr 40) in PHRF 1, Rick Lyall’s *Storm* in the J/109 class, William Purdy’s *Whirlwind* (Beneteau First 36.7) in PHRF 2, John and Tony Esposito’s *Hustler* (J/29 MHOB) in PHRF 3, and David Alldian’s *Cymothoe* (Sabre 362) in PHRF 4.

Ansley’s crew from the Naval academy embodies perseverance. The crew was sailing a J/122 in the Annapolis to Newport Race earlier this month when the top of the mast broke. After returning to Annapolis the crew decided to launch the Farr 40 from storage, but it is a very different boat from the J/122. Primarily, the Farr 40 has symmetrical spinnakers as opposed to asymmetrical sails on the J/122.

“We worked for a week to get the boat back together,” said Ansley, who recently completed his third year at the academy. “But changing to the symmetrical spinnakers was a big task. Our bowman, Dylan Thompson-Sevcik, had never done a dip-pole jibe before. But we were able to find good lanes on the racecourse, had clean mark roundings, got in a good groove and sailed fast. It was a great day.”

Lyall’s *Storm* won the J/109 class at race week in 2013 by posting five consecutive first-place finishes, and today the crew picked up where they left off by posting a 1-3-1.

“After practicing in the rain on Saturday and fog yesterday, we were treated to one of those perfect days of racing on Block Island,” said James Gallacher, headsail trimmer on *Storm*. “We have a good fleet with a lot of competitive boats. On top of that, it’s always a challenge to sail here. Getting the mix right on wind versus current is critical and starts in a fleet this big are huge. We were fortunate to have some great results today.”

The IRC 4 Class is also highly competitive, with Ed Freitag and Molly Haley’s *DownTime* (Summitt 40) holding a slim lead. The winner of IRC 2 in 2013, *DownTime* posted a 2-2-2 today and leads with the low score of 6 points, 1 point ahead of Blakemore’s *Music* (Swan 53) and 2 points ahead of Mike Bruno’s *Wings* (J/122). *Music* posted two 1sts but opened with a 5th in the first race.

“*Music* is the wild card in the class,” said Quentin Thomas, owner of the X-41 *Pendragon* that is in fifth place with 14.5 points. “*DownTime*, *Wings* and *Avalanche* (in fourth place) are always up there, but when the wind builds the Swan gets legs. We were all in the mix two weeks ago at the New York Yacht Club Annual Regatta and will be again this week. It’s as good as it gets.”



In PHRF 4, Alldian's *Cymothoe* leads Bill Loweth and David Strang's *Brer Rabbit III* (C&C 33) by 2 points. Alldian placed second in the class in 2013, but Loweth and Strang have their sights set on placing their 40-year-old boat in the winner's circle.

"We bought the boat in 1983 and it's been in the family since," said Loweth, who drives at the start while Strang, his brother-in-law, drives on the racecourse. "Every four years we strip the bottom and re-do it, and every other year we buy a new sail. We also have a steady crew of eight and everyone knows what they're doing. It's a great family effort."

Block Island Race Week continues tomorrow with strong winds forecast. Due to the forecast the race committee has indicated it might run the race around Block Island, an enduring classic. Follow all the action at Block Island Race Week by downloading the app for both [iOS](#) and [Android](#) operating systems. It is the primary communication channel for race week news, which is committed to reducing paper used in the regatta as part of the sustainability program.

Racing Course: A Red Fleet

IRC 1 (IRC - 6 Boats)

1.	USA521	Hooligan	Gunther Buerman
2.	USA4415	Interlodge	Austin and Gwen Fragomen
3.	USA95	SPOOKIE	Steve & Heidi Benjamin
4.	USA84001	Decision	Stephen Murray
5.	USA5206	Corsair	Charlie Morris

IRC 2 (IRC - 8 Boats)

1.	USA4304	Christopher Dragon	Andrew & Linda Weiss
2.	USA45454	Lir	John McNamara
3.	USA18	Better Than...	Gosia Rojek
4.	USA60432	Cool Breeze	John Cooper
5.	USA753	Watermark	Jack LeFort

IRC 3 / Swan 42 (IRC - 6 Boats)

1.	USA4235	Apparition	Ken Colburn
2.	USA4214	Daring	John Hele
3.	USA4206	Impetuous	Paul Zabetakis
4.	USA4210	Quintessence	Roger Widmann
5.	USA4245	Mahalo	Charles Kenahan

IRC 4 (IRC - 14 Boats)

1.	USA93586	DownTime	Ed Freitag / Molly Haley
2.	GBR53N	Music	James Blakemore
3.	USA12241	Wings	mike Bruno
4.	USA39516	Avalanche	Craig Albrecht
5.	USA70	Pendragon	Quentin Thomas

PHRF 1 (PHRF_ToT - 17 Boats)



STORM TRYSAIL CLUB
BLOCK ISLAND
RACE WEEK
1965 - 50th ANNIVERSARY - 2015

1.	USA60059	Ranger	Dax Ansley
2.	USA40	Seabiscuit	Kevin McNeil
3.	USA32006	Six Brothers	Chris Kramer
4.	USA7311	Perseverance	Bennet Greenwald
5.	USA30	Wicked 2.0	Douglas Curtiss

Racing Course: B White Fleet

J 44 OD (One Design - 6 Boats)

1.	USA4412 / 42880	Challenge IV	Jeffrey W. Willis
2.	USA4401 / 43787	Resolute	Don and Rick Rave
3.	USA4414 / 43600	Vamp	Leonard Sitar
4.	USA4403 / 49	Gold Digger	James D. Bishop
5.	USA4413 / 42324	Glory	Jack Neades

C&C30 (One Design - 5 Boats)

1.	USA15	Themis	Walt Thirion
2.	USA30007	Nyabinghi	Angus Davis
3.	USA30001	Swedish Fish	Ben Hall
4.	USA30002	Salt	Max Buerman
5.	USA18	Andiamo	Paul Strauch

J 88 (One Design - 4 Boats)

1.	USA24	Deviation	Iris Vogel
2.	USA1	Jazz	Rod Johnstone
3.	USA20	Instant Karma	David Betts
4.	USA35	Yonder	Douglas Newhouse

J 109 OD (One Design - 25 Boats)

1.	20	USA146	Storm	Rick Lyall
2.	4	USA52202	Caminos	Donald Filippelli
3.	17	USA51	Rush	Bill Sweetser
4.	19	USA369	Skoot	Jim Vos
5.	11	USA260	Mad Dogs	Adrian Begley

J 105 OD (One Design - 17 Boats)

1.	33	BER490	Distant Passion	James Macdonald
2.	36	USA334	loulou	Paul Beaudin
3.	35	USA50	Eclipse	Damian Emery
4.	30	USA116	Arbitrage	Bruce Stone
5.	47	USA344	Two Feathers	Mark & Jolene Masur

Racing Course: C Blue Fleet

PHRF 2 (PHRF_ToT - 14 Boats)

1.	USA52134	Whirlwind	William Purdy
2.	USA32581	Leading Edge	Tom Sutton



3.	USA52994	Maudelayne	Frederick Heerde
4.	USA40926	Freightrain	Richard Hyde
5.	USA93555	Nanuq	Glenn Doncaster

PHRF 3 (PHRF_ToT - 12 Boats)

1.	USA283	Hustler	John / Tony Esposito
2.	USA83350	Incommunicado	Ed Tracey / Tim Polk
3.	USA269	Mighty Puffin	Steve Thurston
4.	83214	Project Mayhem	Doug & Amy Stryker
5.	USA19	Rumor	John Storck, Jr

PHRF 4 (PHRF_ToT - 10 Boats)

1.	USA51362	Cymothoe	David Alldian
2.	USA20201	Brer Rabbit III	Bill Loweth / David Strang
3.	USA15379	Air Express	Chris Fesenmeyer
4.	USA31550	Arabesque	Robert Bruno
5.	USA65	Acadia	Todd Lalumiere

PHRF - Doublehanded (PHRF_ToT - 4 Boats)

1.	52816	RockIt 2.0	Lance Ryley
2.	USA39534	Skye	Ty Anderson
3.	106 USA106	GryphonSolo2	Joe Harris
4.	2804	Diablo	Greg and Carie Cutter

Cruising Spinnaker (PHRF_ToT - 11 Boats)

1.	USA60398	Testing Life	Brian & Deborah Mulhall
2.	ISV6662	Azzurra	Earl (Tom) Schubert
3.	351	Fidelio	Charles Townsend
4.	USA12	Invictus	Ted Ruegg
5.	USA40253	Orion	Bryan Coon

Cruising Non-Spinnaker (PHRF_ToT - 9 Boats)

1.	USA73113	Crackerjack	Alan Krulisch
2.	USA11426	Rascal	Christopher Schneider
3.	320	Latitude	Brian Gillen
4.	6980	x-dimension	Matthew Wall
5.	USA31401	Tenderly	Mark Masiello

About Block Island Race Week

Founded in 1965, the Storm Trysail Club's Block Island Race Week is one of the oldest race weeks in the U.S. The regatta is held in odd-numbered years on idyllic Block Island, about 13 miles off the coast of Rhode Island. Measuring less than 10 square miles in area, Block Island has been named one of "The Last Great Places" by the Nature Conservancy. The Storm Trysail Club wishes to thank its many supporters and partners, including sponsors [Mount Gay Rum](#), [North Sails](#), [Block Island Wind Farm](#), [Caithness Energy](#), [Vineyard Vines](#), [New England Boatworks](#), [Bainbridge International](#), [Gill](#), [Hall Spars](#),



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About the Storm Trysail Club

The Storm Trysail Club is one of the world's most respected sailing clubs. Established in 1938, its membership includes skilled blue water and ocean racing sailors, who have flown a storm trysail (a small triangular sail flown in very strong winds) or severely reduced canvas during an ocean voyage. The club is headquartered in Larchmont, N.Y., and has regional stations throughout the U.S. The club hosts Block Island Race Week in odd-numbered years, the annual Block Island Race and Fort Lauderdale to Key West Race, Quantum Key West Race Week, the biennial Miami to Montego Bay Race and many other events. The Club's affiliated 501(c)(3) organization, The Storm Trysail Foundation, holds annual junior safety-at-sea seminars and the Intercollegiate Offshore Regatta for college sailors using big boats. For more information, visit [Storm Trysail Club](#).