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Contact Peter Rugg, [info@blockislandraceweek.com](mailto:info@blockislandraceweek.com)

## **DONALD FILIPPELLI'S *CAMINOS* EARNS TOP HONORS AT STORM TRYSAIL CLUB'S BLOCK ISLAND RACE WEEK**

**NEW SHOREHAM, R.I. (June 26, 2015)** – The Storm Trysail Club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Block Island Race Week drew to a close today with two final races on Block Island Sound.

This year's fleet totaled 167 boats in 15 classes and all but the three Navigator classes sailed a total of 11 races, making it one of the more successful weeks in recent memory. Four days of windward/leeward racing in 10- to 18-knot winds coupled with an epic Round the Island Race in 20- to 30-knot winds has many leaving the island off the coast of Rhode Island with fond memories.

"This is probably the best race week we've had in the past 10 editions," said Principal Race Officer Dick Neville. "We've rarely had five full days of racing. Usually the weather interrupts one day. But the conditions this week have been spectacular. It might be the best race week ever."

The conditions throughout the week were well-suited for Donald Filippelli's *J/109 Caminos*, which won the Everett B. Morris Memorial Trophy for best overall performance. *Caminos* also won the *J/109* North American Championship, awarded as part of race week.

Hailing from Amagansett, N.Y., near Sag Harbor on the eastern end of Long Island, *Caminos* is helmed by Filippelli's son-in-law, Ryan Dempsey. They've placed in the top three in the *J/109* class each of the past three race weeks before breaking through this year.

"I don't sail the boat anymore because of Parkinson's disease, but Ryan and the crew do a tremendous job," said Filippelli. "It's a 10-year-old boat and takes a lot of abuse, and I love it. Each day I tell the crew 'Be safe, have fun and goddammit win!'"

Factors determining boat of the week include class size, total points and margin of victory. Racing in the largest class at race week, 25 boats, *Caminos* finished with the low score of 21 points, won four races, had nine top-2 finishes and finished 17 points ahead of Bill Sweetser's second-placed *Rush*.

"We sailed conservatively, had mid-line starts and were going fast," said Dempsey. "We were very fast upwind. I'm not sure why, but I'll take it. It was all by-the-book fundamental stuff."



While *Caminos* won the top award Josh Burack (New Rochelle, N.Y.), owner of the J/105 *Peregrina*, won the Emil "Bus" Mosbacher Sportsmanship Trophy. *Peregrina* lost its mast in Tuesday's Round the Island Race when a shroud broke. The mast folded in half at the top spreader.

Burack then volunteered for Race Committee duty and was placed on a safety boat. Prior to racing on Wednesday, fellow J/105 competitor Damian Emery's *Eclipse* broke its gooseneck during practice before the day's first race. Burack raced back to Champlin's Marina, removed the gooseneck fitting from his broken mast, and got it to *Eclipse* with time to spare.

"Before we left the dock on Wednesday, we noticed a crack in the gooseneck, but decided it would likely be fine until the end of the week, but of course the moment we went up with the main, it busted." said Dave Shrader, trimmer on *Eclipse*. "If it wasn't for Josh running in and stripping the gooseneck off his stricken boat for us, it would've been a lot worse. We didn't even miss a race," he said. "It's this sort of camaraderie and respect for one another that makes Race Week so special."

After four days of winds from the south to the west, today's wind was from the northeast and blowing 15-20 knots before easing off as a weather system approaches New England. Several classes were decided in the final day of racing.

One of those was the J/105 Class, where Emery's (Shoreham, N.Y.) *Eclipse* staged a come-from-behind victory to win the class and the J/105 East Coast Championship. *Eclipse* was placed fourth after Wednesday's racing, 11 points out of first, but finished the regatta with a 1-2-1-2 to score a 1 point victory over Paul Beaudin's (New York, N.Y.) *loulou*.

Austin and Gwen Fragomen's (Newport, R.I.) new 44-footer *Interlodge* won IRC 1 after a week-long struggle with Gunther Buerman's (Highland Beach, Fla.) 52-footer *Hooligan*. The two traded blows all week and that continued today. *Hooligan* won the day's first race with *Interlodge* second to climb within 1 point heading into the final race. *Interlodge* got the better of the boat-on-boat battle, finishing second to *Hooligan's* third for a 2-point victory.

Mike Bruno's (Armonk, N.Y.) *Wings* (J/122) won both of today's races to stage a come-from-behind victory in IRC 4. Trailing Ed Freitag's and Molly Haley's (Annapolis, Md.) *DownTime* (Summitt 40) by 4 points heading into today, *Wings* finished with a 5-point victory after *DownTime* placed 7-4.

The tightest class in the fleet was PHRF 1, where 1 point separated the top three. It also was another case of a come-from-behind victory as Bennet Greenwald's (San Diego, Calif.) *Perserverance* (J/111) moved up from third and won by one-half point over Kevin McNeil's (Annapolis, Md.) *Seabiscuit* (Farr 30). The smallest boat in the class, *Seabiscuit* had led its larger rivals all week but scored a 5-5 today while *Perserverance* finished 2-2. Dax Ansley's (Annapolis, Md.) U.S. Naval Academy crew on *Ranger* (Farr 40) placed third, another one-half point behind *Seabiscuit*.



Still another comeback was staged in the J/88 Class, where designer Rod Johnstone's (Stonington, Conn.) *Jazz* scored a 1 point victory over Iris Vogel's *Deviation*, which had led all week.

In the venerable J/44 Class, Jeffery W. Willis' (Huntington Bay, N.Y.) *Challenge IV* scored two more victories today to complete the class win. It is the crew's sixth consecutive class victory at Block Island Race Week dating back to 2005.

"We've had a very consistent crew," said Willis. "With the exception of maybe two members, it's the same crew we sailed with in 2005. My three sons are in the crew and it's just very special to win with them."

"*Challenge* was fantastic all week," said Len Sitar, owner of *VAMP*. "They had great tactics, boatspeed and the crew work was outstanding. But they've done this before. I think they've won the J/44 North Americans something like 15 times in the past 25 years."

In IRC 2, Andrew and Linda Weiss' (Mamaroneck, N.Y.) *Christopher Dragon* led from Day 1 to Day 5. The Sydney 43 had all top-2 finishes and totaled 17 points. *Christopher Dragon* finished 3 points ahead of John McNamara's *Lir* (Swan 45).

"Our ratings are pretty similar so we're essentially sailing boat-for-boat. They're just very hard to beat," said McNamara.

In the IRC 3/Swan 42 Class, Paul Zabetakis' (Stuart, Fla.) *Impetuous* finished 5 points ahead of Ken Colburn's (Boston, Mass.) *Apparition* for his first class victory at race week since 1999.

Walt Thirion's (Annapolis, Md.) *Themis* finished first in the C&C 30 Class, which it has led all week, and Angus Davis' (Bristol, R.I.) *Nyabinghi* finished second, 6 points in arrears.

William Purdy's (New York, N.Y.) *Whirlwind* (Beneteau First 36.7) in PHRF 2, John and Tony Esposito's (Mohegan Lake, N.Y.) *Hustler* (J/29 MHOB) in PHRF 3 and David Alldian's (Jupiter, Fla.) *Cymothoe* (Sabre 362) in PHRF 4 all won the classes they have led all week.

In the Navigator classes, which sailed one race per day, Ty Anderson's (Riverside, Conn.) *Skye* (Farr 395) won the Doublehanded Class, Brian and Deborah Mulhall's (Ocean City, N.J.) *Testing Life* (Tartan 46) won the Cruising Spinnaker Class and Christopher Schneider's (Centerport, N.Y.) *Rascal* (Ericson 39) won the Cruising Non-Spinnaker Class. Each had led their respective class all week.

## **STORM TRYSAIL CLUB BLOCK ISLAND RACE WEEK 2015**

Preliminary Cumulative Results (Pending Protests)

### **IRC 1 (6 Boats)**

1. *Interlodge* (Botin HPR 44) Austin and Gwen Fragomen (Newport, RI) 1-2-2-1-1-4-2-2-1-2-2 – 20



2. *Hooligan* (IRC 52) Gunther Buerman (Highland Beach, FL) 2-1-1-2-4-1-1-1-5-1-3 – 22
3. *SPOOKIE* (Carkeek HP 40) Steve & Heidi Benjamin (Norwalk, CT) 3-3-4-3-3-2-4-3-2-3-1 – 31

#### **IRC 2 (8 Boats)**

1. *Christopher Dragon* (Sydney 43) Andrew & Linda Weiss (Mamaroneck, NY) 1-1-1-1-2-2-1-2-2-2-2 – 17
2. *Lir* (Swan 45) John McNamara (Darien, CT) 2-2-3-2-4-1-2-1-1-1-1 – 20
3. *Better Than...* (Swan 42) Gosia Rojek (Brooklyn, NY) 5-4-2-5-5-4-4-5-3-5-5 – 47

#### **IRC 3/Swan 42 (6 Boats)**

1. *Impetuous*, Paul Zabetakis (Stuart, FL) 1-3-3-2-1-2-1-3-2-2-4 – 24
2. *Apparition*, Ken Colburn (Boston, MA) 2-4-1-1-2-4-4-1-4-1-5 – 29
3. *Daring*, John Hele (Newport, RI) 4-1-2-3-3-1-3-5-5-3-2 – 32

#### **IRC 4 (14 Boats)**

1. *Wings* (J/122) Mike Bruno (Armonk, NY) 1-3-4-3-2-1-2-5-4-1-1 – 27
2. *DownTime* (Summit 40) Ed Freitag/Molly Haley (Annapolis, MD) 2-2-2-4-3-3-1-1-3-7-4 – 32
3. *Music* (Swan 53) James Blakemore (Johannesburg, RSA) 5-1-1-1-1-5-7-6-6-4-10 – 47

#### **PHRF 1 (17 Boats)**

1. *Perseverance* (J/111) Bennet Greenwald (San Diego, CA) 3-5-3-3-4-2-2-8-1-2-2 – 35
2. *Seabiscuit* (Farr 30) Kevin McNeil (Annapolis, MD) 2-1-4-1-3-3-4.5-1-6-5-5 – 35.5
3. *Ranger* (Farr 40) Dax Ansley (Annapolis, MD) 1-2-1-18-2-1-1-2-2-3-3 – 36

#### **J/44 (6 Boats)**

1. *Challenge IV*, Jeffrey W. Willis (Huntington Bay, NY) 2-3-1-2-1-1-1-1-1-1-1 – 15
2. *Resolute*, Don and Rick Rave (Huntington Bay, NY) 4-1-2-3-4-4-2-2-3-2-2 – 29
3. *VAMP*, Leonard Sitar (Holmdel, N.J.) 3-2-3-4-3-3-3-3-5-4-4 – 37

#### **C&C30 (5 Boats)**

1. *Themis*, Walt Thirion (Annapolis, MD) 1-1-1-1-4-1-1-2-2-3-1 – 18
2. *Nyabinghi*, Angus Davis (Bristol, RI) 2-2-2-2-1-2-5-1-1-4-2 – 24
3. *Swedish Fish*, Ben Hall (Tiverton, RI) 3-4-3-3-2-4-2-4-4-1-4 – 34

#### **J/88 (4 Boats)**

1. *Jazz*, Rod Johnstone (Stonington, CT) 2-2-2-2-1-2-1-1-2-1-1 – 17
2. *Deviation*, Iris Vogel (New Rochelle, NY) 1-1-1-1-3-1-3-2-1-2-2 – 18
3. *Instant Karma*, David Betts (Southampton, NY) 3-5-3-3-2-4-2-3-4-3-4 – 36

#### **J/109 (25 Boats)**

1. *Caminos*, Donald Filippelli (Amagansett, NY) 4-1-2-3-2-1-1-2-2-2-1 – 21
2. *Rush*, Bill Sweetser (Annapolis, MD) 6-2-5-2-3-8-2-1-4-1-4 – 38
3. *Storm*, Rick Lyall (Wilton, CT) 1-3-1-4-5-14-7-6-1-3-3 – 48

#### **J/105 (17 Boats)**

1. *Eclipse*, Damian Emery (Shoreham, NY) 1-5-6-7-3-4-5-1-2-1-2 – 37
2. *Ioulou*, Paul Beaudin (New York, NY) 4-2-4-3-1-5-1-7-1-3-7 – 38
3. *Arbitrage*, Bruce Stone (San Francisco, CA) 2-10-2-1-4-1-9-3-5-2-3 – 42

#### **PHRF 2 (14 Boats)**

1. *Whirlwind* (Beneteau First 36.7) William Purdy (New York, NY) 1-2-1-3-1-4.5-1-4-1-2-1 – 21.5



2. *Leading Edge* (J/35) Tom Sutton (Houston, TX) 4-1-3-6-3-4.5-2-1-4-4-4 – 36.5
3. *XLR8* (Evelyn 32-2) Brad Porter (Westbrook, Conn.) 10-3-4-2-2-1-5-8-10-1-2 – 48

#### **PHRF 3 (12 Boats)**

1. *Hustler* (J/29 MHOB) John/Tony Esposito (Mohegan Lake, NY) 1-2-1-1-1-2-2-1-1-1-1 – 14
2. *Incommunicado* (Omega 36) Ed Tracey/Tim Polk (Severna Park, MD) 2-1-3-3-6-3-1-2-4-2-2 – 29
3. *Mighty Puffin* (J/29 MH) Steve Thurston (Bristol, RI) 3-3-2-5-2-1-4-5-2-3-3 – 33

#### **PHRF 4 (9 Boats)**

1. *Cymothoe* (Sabre 362) David Alldian (Jupiter, FL) 1-1-2-1-1-1-1-1.5-1-1-2 – 13.5
2. *Brer Rabbit III* (C&C 33) Bill Loweth/David Strang (Noank, CT) 2-3-1-2-2-2-2-8-2-2-1 – 27
3. *Arabesque* (Chance CTM 31) Robert Bruno (Avon, CT) 3-4-4-3-4-3-4-1.5-3-3-3 – 35.5

#### **PHRF Doublehanded (4 Boats)**

1. *Skye* (Farr 395) Ty Anderson (Riverside, CT) 2-1-2-1-1 – 7
2. *GryphonSolo2* (Class 40) Joe Harris (S. Hamilton, MA) 3-2-1-3-2 – 11
3. *RockIt 2.0* (Columbia 30-2 Sport) Lance Ryley (Boston, MA) 1-3-3-2-3 – 12

#### **Cruising Spinnaker (11 Boats)**

1. *Testing Life* (Tartan 46) Brian & Deborah Mulhall (Ocean City, NJ) 1-1-3-2-1 – 8
2. *Invictus* (Jeanneau Sun Fast 3600) Ted Ruegg (Annapolis, MD) 4-2-4-1-4 – 15
3. *Fidelio* (S&S 39) Charles Townsend (Middletown, RI) 3-3-1-3-5 – 15

#### **Cruising Non-Spinnaker (9 Boats)**

1. *Rascal* (Ericson 39) Christopher Schneider (Centerport, NY) 2-1-1-1-1 – 6
2. *Latitude* (Mason 43) Brian Gillen (Locust, NJ) 3-3-2-5-4 – 17
3. *x-dimension* (C&C 43) Matthew Wall (Cambridge, MA) 4-2-10-2-2 – 20

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#### **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](#), [Gowrie Group](#), [Trident Studio](#), [US Watercraft](#), [Quantum Key West Race Week](#), [PhotoBoat.com](#), [Heineken](#), [Newport Vineyards](#), [Bitter End](#), [WindCheck](#), [Sailing World](#), [Utz Potato Chips](#), [Commanders' Weather](#).



### **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](#).