

# The 'virtual' club without a clubhouse

The long and storied history of the Twenty Hundred Club dates back to a small group of sailors during the immediate post-World War II era who saw sailboat racing as an endeavor that goes beyond sailing fast and should require offshore and navigational seamanship skills.

In 1946, Ty Cobb and Charles Dickerson were sailing Ty's S-Boat Dilemma back from Point Judith to the Rhode Island Yacht Club and discussing that the hot-shot "buoy racers" of Narragansett Bay could not do any racing that required more than 15 minutes of compass sailing. On Labor Day weekend, at 20:00 hours (hence the club's name), they started a race fisherman's style (sails down at the starting gun) from Newport Harbor destined for Onset, Mass. Five boats sailed a 46-nautical-mile racecourse with just a starting area and a finish dock.

Since then, the club evolved into a vibrant sailboat racing club on Narragansett Bay

that has a wide range of races, including island circumnavigations, destination races and pure adventure races. The Twenty Hundred Club is a virtual club without a clubhouse, and the members are scattered all along the coastline of Narragansett Bay.

June 7 was the inaugural running of the Bridge Fiasco on Narragansett Bay; other events in the club's season include the 24.6-nautical-mile Around Aquidneck Island Race; the Around Prudence Island Race; two destination races that start in Newport and end in Cuttyhunk (24 nm) and Block Island (22.2nm); and The Prince Henry Navigator Race, with seven different starting areas around the bay, 27 government buoys used as race marks, while each boat picks their own starting area and racecourse.

To learn more about the Twenty Hundred Club, visit [twentyhundredclub.org](http://twentyhundredclub.org).