

Conditions favor the Around Aquidneck Island Race

The second race of The Twenty Hundred Club's season was fast, under fair skies

BY NICK BOWEN

The Twenty Hundred Club had its second race of the season on Saturday June 20. The "Around Aquidneck" race starts just south of Hog Island, near the Mt. Hope Bridge, takes the sailors about 12 nautical miles (nm) south to buoy R2 at Brenton Reef. This mark is about 2 nm south of Castle Hill, and there the boats turn east for a 5.5 nm run across Rhode Island Sound.

Then at the buoy G1 that marks Cormorant Reef, they turn north and enter the Sakonnet River for a 9.1 nm run up the Sakonnet River to the finish line just south of Gould Island before the Tiverton basin. The total distance for the race is 27.7 nm.

There were 24 boats that competed in four classes. There were 17 spinnaker boats and seven cruising class boats. This is almost up to the 2019 level of 28 boats, as racers are slowly getting back on the water.

The forecast for the day was southwest winds at 5 to 10 knots. High tide was at 7:54 a.m. and low tide was at 1:09 p.m., which meant the boats would have favorable conditions all day. They would ride an outgoing tide all the way to Newport and then an incoming tide all the way up the Sakonnet River.

The race is always the third weekend in June and there is a notorious trend that there are often very low winds until around noon when the sea breeze kicks in. Fortunately, just before the first start at 10 a.m. the winds kicked up to 10 to 14 knots.

Between the winds and the tides, this was going to make a fast rounding of the island.

A unique attribute of this race is that the starts are staggered by 15 minutes for each of the four classes. The slowest boats, Cruising II, start at 10:05, followed by Spinnaker B at 10:20. Cruising I starts at 10:35 and finally Spinnaker A starts at 10:50. John Brady of Portsmouth was the designer of this race and legend has it that he set the staggered starts so all the boats would cluster near the finish line and he could always enjoy the view of dozens of colorful spinnakers sailing past his house that faces the Sakonnet River.

Brian Cunha's Irie2, a Kerr 55, was the first to the turn at Brenton Reef around 12:30 p.m. This was a remarkable 7.8 knots VMG while tacking down the bay. He was closely followed by Bill Shaw's Meddler, a J/29, by about 5 minutes. That was another remarkable performance by a Spinnaker-B boat down the bay. The wind was too far to the south for the lead cluster of boats to set their spinnakers, but about a third of the way to Cormorant Reef the wind shifted to the southwest and the spinnakers all popped open.

The story of the day was between the highest and lowest rated boats in Spinnaker A. The lowest rated boat (the fastest)



Spinnaker A boats passing Sandy Point in the Sakonnet River (left to right): Kevin Dakan's Memory, David Schwartz's Mischief, Bill Kneller's Vento Solare, and Charlie Stoddard's Falcon.



Tim Grimes' Zephyros, blasting around the island.

was Brian Cunha's Irie2 with a PHRF rating of -63 and Tim Grimes' Zephyros, a Melges 24, with a rating of 99. This rating difference meant that Grimes would be given 1 hour and 14 minutes of time credit.

Zephyros had a tough ride from Castle Hill out to Brenton Reef because of the mix of outgoing tides and incoming winds made for some very steep ocean swells. Zephyros rounded Brenton Reef at 1:18, a full 48 minutes behind Irie2 with less than half the race completed. At this point their prospects of winning were low. Zephyros, aptly named for the Greek God of the West Winds, saw the miraculous wind shift from south to southwest and set his spinnaker shortly after rounding the mark. They reported boat speeds of 16 knots with a few blasts up to 20 knots. He was the third Spinnaker-A boat to finish and corrected to a first place victory.

Nick Bowen is commodore of the Twenty Hundred Club and races his Lyman-Morse e33 on Narragansett Bay. He can be reached at commodore@

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Results

Spinnaker A Class (PHRF Base < 100)

1. Zephyros, Timothy Grimes
2. Memory, Kevin Dakan
3. Spirit, EC Helme
4. Vento Solare, Bill Kneller
5. Serenity, Curt Spalding
6. Irie2, Brian Cunha
7. Falcon, Charles Stoddard
8. En passant, Jim Archer
9. Resolute, Terry Arndt
10. Mischief, David Schwartz

Spinnaker B Class (PHRF Base > 100)

1. Vela Graves, Michael Zani
2. Epiphany, Nick Bowen

3. Odyssey, David Brodsky & Alfred Van Liew
4. Cetacean, Peter Maloney
5. Highlander, Jonathan Bixby
6. Mystic, Christophe Perut
7. Meddler, William Shaw

Cruising I Class (PHRF Base <= 140)

1. R' Bouy, Mark Levin
2. Relentless, Robert Laska
3. Warrior, Phillippe Perut
5. SeaTreat, Mark Treat

Cruising II Class (PHRF Base > 140)

1. Serendipity, Gary Venable
2. Tamanoa, Gregg Morash
3. Pau Hana, David Wilson
4. Kestrel, Mark Franklin

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The Tides*

	HIAM	HIPM	LoAM	LoPM	Sunrise	Sunset
Wednesday, July 22	9:58 (4.5)	10:15 (5.1)	3:23	3:10	5:29	8:13
Thursday, July 23	10:48 (4.7)	11:05 (5.0)	4:01	3:59	5:30	8:13
Friday, July 24	11:39 (4.7)	11:58 (4.8)	4:40	4:49	5:31	8:12
Saturday, July 25	— (—)	12:33 (4.8)	5:20	5:43	5:32	8:11
Sunday, July 26	12:52 (4.6)	1:29 (4.9)	6:06	6:49	5:33	8:10
Monday, July 27	1:48 (4.3)	2:25 (4.9)	6:59	8:22	5:34	8:09
Tuesday, July 28	2:46 (4.1)	3:23 (4.9)	8:01	9:58	5:35	8:08
Wednesday, July 29	3:47 (3.9)	4:26 (4.9)	9:08	11:06	5:36	8:07
Thursday, July 30	4:53 (3.9)	5:31 (4.9)	10:13	—	5:37	8:06

New Moon July 20 — Full Moon August 3

* Information is based on tides in Bristol Harbor.



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