

The Prince Henry Navigator Race

Nick Bowen

August 2020

The Twenty Hundred Club had their fifth race of the season on Sunday August 23. Prince Henry was the Portuguese explorer Dom Henrique who lived from 1394 to 1460. He pioneered Portugal's early maritime expansion. His first capture was Maderia, about 400 miles east of Morocco that he sought shelter on when he was blown off course in 1418. He would also oversee the settlement of the Azores. But it would be three centuries until he was given the nickname "Prince Henry the Navigator" in the nineteenth century by a German historian.

The Twenty Hundred Club picked Henry as the moniker because they designed a race that was like, well, exploring the bay for the first time. First, the race has seven **different** starting areas around the bay: East Greenwich, Barrington, Bristol, Wickford, Newport, Warwick, and Portsmouth. Second, the start is called "fisherman" style. The boat is at anchor with the sails down and the crew down below. At the 9:00 starting gun (a radio broadcast that needs to be heard from Barrington to Newport) the crew scrambles to the deck, hoists the anchor and sails and is off. Each starting area has a set first mark (the Newport starts at G"3" near Rose Island and their first mark is G"11" at the Dumplings. But after that mark it is "pick your own race course." There are 27 government bouys that the sailors can use as turning marks. The sailing instructions define 51 segments between the 27 marks and assign a mileage value for each segment. The goal is straight forward – log the most miles. In one of the most unorthodox rules in racing, boats are allowed to use their engines for a total of 30 minutes during the day. This is generally used to meet the incoming sea breeze a few minutes early. Finally, you must finish between 15:00 and 16:00 hours. Finishing after 15:30 you will incur a slight time penalty and finishing 1 second after 16:00 gets you disqualified.

There were ten boats that competed in two classes. There were six spinnaker boats and four cruising class boats.

The forecast for the day was for morning northerly winds at 0-5 knots and afternoon southerly winds at 10-15 knots. High tide was at 11:58 AM. The tide and winds set the strategy and favors certain starting areas. These conditions favored Newport since you could at least ride the current up the bay waiting for the sea breeze and get the sea breeze before the other boats. For the four boats that started in Newport it would take them 30 minutes to go one mile to the first mark. Two boats would continue to Beavertail (EC Helme's *Spirit*) and Tom Gieske's *Arigato*). Nick Bowen's *epiphany* and Bill Kneller's *Vento Solare* would turn and head up the bay.



Nick Bowen's *epiphany* struggles to get to the starting line behind Tom Gieske's *Arigato*, Bill Kneller's *Vento Solare*, and E.C. Helmes's *Spirit* (photo credit: Nick Bowen).

John Whaley's *Whaylayed* would win the spinnaker class with a total of 25.8 nautical miles (nm). He struggled heavily in the low winds to get the second mark, R"2", just northeast of Jamestown by 12:38 which means he averaged less than 1 knot all morning. He then decided to north to Warwick, a decent decision because he was able to log another 22.8nm before his 15:28 finish.

Dick Waterman's *Allegro Vivace* would win the cruising class with a total of 22.74 nm. He has slightly better morning winds and was able to clock 5.56 nm before 12:22. He would put in an additional 16.2 nm before his 15:15 finish.

Nick Bowen's *epiphany* got special honors for the most miles sailed of any boat but also earned a big DSQ ("Disqualification") for a bout of greed. His strategy to ride the current north in the morning paid off when they were able to get to R"2" north of Jamestown by 11:43 – 7 nm sailed in the first 2:45 and be the first boat to meet the sea breeze. They had strong winds and were reach east and west all afternoon. It was at 14:45 when they decided to grab and an extra 3.75 nm by looping from Despair Island to G"3" at Jamestown. They did not anticipate the

currents and make it to the finish line with 33.9 nm at 16:10 missing the 16:00 deadline and getting disqualified.

The club's next race will be the Fall Race Around Prudence on Saturday September 19. Interested sailors are encouraged to register at <https://twentyhundredclub.org>.

RESULTS PRINCE HENRY RACE 2020												
Spinnaker Class												
Pos	Last	Boat Name	Boat Type	PHRF Spin	Twenty Hundred Perf. Penalty	Final PHRF Rating	Finsh time	Actual Miles Sailed	Actual VMG	Final Miles	Starting Location	Engine Minutes
1	Whalay	Whaylayed	Express 35	113	-10	103	15:26:00	24.58	3.82	25.88	Wickford	15.00
2	Helme	Spirit	J/92S	96	-15	81	15:40:55	26.04	3.90	25.78	Newport	25.00
3	Cetacean	Maloney	Sabre 36	137	0	137	15:23:00	22.73	3.56	24.92	Portsmouth	28.00
4	Arigato	Gieske	C&C41	87	0	93	15:09:00	22.48	3.66	24.45	Newport	30.00
5	Lipa	Lorax	Tartan 10	135	0	135	15:11:01	19.93	3.22	21.99	Wickford	17.90
DNF	Kneller	Vento Solare	J/109	75	-10	65	16:01:00	27.49	3.92	25.06	Newport	25.00
		Vento Solare	Scratch Boat			65						
Cruising Class												
	Last	Boat Name	Boat Type	PHRF Non-Spin	Twenty Hundred Club Perf. Penalty	Final PHRF Rating	Finsh time	Actual Miles Sailed	Actual VMG	Final Miles	Starting Location	Engine Minutes
1	Waterman	Allegro Vivace	J/37 WK	119	-10	109	15:14:00	21.74	3.49	22.74	Barrington	25.00
2	Franklin	Kestrel	Catalina 30	216	0	216	15:13:00	18.33	2.95	21.06	Portsmouth	15.00
3	Laska	Relentless	First 36.7	111	-5	106	15:17:00	20.32	3.23	20.94	EG	14.50
DNF	Bowen	epiphany	Sabre 36	121	0	121	16:10:00	34.03	4.75	31.36	Newport	30.00
		Relentless	Scratch Boat			106						

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