Marion to Bermuda Race 2017
Front Row Seat to the America’s Cup

Race Starts: June 9, 2017
So You Want to Race to Bermuda

• Why You Should Go
• The History
• The Race
• Preparing for The Race
  – The Boat
  – The Crew
  – Post Race
• Where to begin
Why Do I Race?
Adventure Accomplishment Comraderie
(and a heck of a lot of fun!!!
Why Marion to Bermuda?

Love of Sailing and Competition

- Reasonable offshore passage
- Strategic and tactical challenges
- Fair competition
- Last celestial race
Why Marion to Bermuda? 
Resources to ensure success

• Well managed race
• Experienced RC
• Mentoring program
• Safety at Sea seminar
Why Marion to Bermuda?
Simply... Bermuda

• Great landfall
• Events for entire family in Bermuda
• And in 2017....
The America’s Cup!!
But really, isn’t this reason enough?
Or Simply This
But if all of that is not enough... How about the 2017 America’s Cup!!
The History

- Founded in 1977
- Blue Water Sailing Club
- Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club
- Beverly Yacht Club
Marion Bermuda 2017
40th Years of Racing to Bermuda

• **Continued emphasis on Celestial Navigation**
  – Classes, mentors, webpage
  – 3% handicap benefit

• **Offshore Youth Challenge**
  – 66% of crew ages 16-23
  – Adult Sponsored & Coached
    • Academies
    • Colleges
    • Yacht Clubs

• **Manufacturer Classes**
The Race
Start: Friday, June 9, 2017
The Race

• **US Ocean Race** (previously ISAF Cat 1)

• **Governed by**
  
  *US Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER)*
  
  as modified for MBR

• **What does this mean?**
2017 Safety Equipment Based on US Sailing Ocean Racing Safety Equipment Requirements (as modified for the MBR)

www.offshore.ussailing.org
www.marionbermuda.com/preparation/documents

• Easier to understand; Self-contained (no external docs)
• Streamline pre-race inspection
• Storm trysail not required (but strongly recommended)
• AIS not required (but strongly recommended)
• May carry two spinnakers. Either on centerline or pole. Both the same type (asymmetrical or symmetrical). Declare by May 12
• Ability to steer with rudder disabled
The Race

Length on Deck:
• Founders Division 32’ to 80’
• Big Yacht Division 65’ to 100’
The Race

- ORR Rating System
- Partial measurement
- Certificate required
- Time on time rating
- Application to US Sailing early
- Received by RC by May 31

www.ussailing.org

links: Offshore > ORR
The Race

Choice of Navigation

- Celestial
  - 3% rating benefit

- Electronic

- Must declare navigation class by May 12, 2017
The Race

Weather Information:

• Prior to Captains Mtg
  - Subscription weather
  - Route planning services
  - Private communications

• Captains Meeting
  - No subscription services or private communications
  - Publically available only:
    Satellite phone, SSB
    VHF, Cellphone
The Race

- 645 Nautical Miles
- Start: Marion, MA
- Finish: St. David’s Light
The Race

Three Distinct Races:

- Buzzards Bay
- Gulf Stream
- Approach to Bermuda
The Race

Buzzards Bay:
• Prevailing SW winds
• Beat down the Bay
• Round Sow & Pigs
  Look out for those rocks!
The Race

Gulf Stream:
• Reach in 2-3 days
• Has its own weather, current, and sea state
• Develop strategic plan of attack
• Information:
  - Gulf Stream Companion (Ocean Navigator)
  - Ocean Prediction Center
  - Safety at Sea Seminars
  - Routing services
The Race

Approach to Bermuda:
• The Bermuda high
• Read & re-read SI
• Check your charts
• Reefs, reefs, reefs
• St. David’s Light and the Finish Line

Note: A bearing not a mark

St David’s Light
Preparing for the Race

Review the requirements:

• Notice of Race
• Sailing Instructions
• US Safety Equipment Requirements
• Inspection checklist

www.marionbermuda.com
Preparing The Boat

• Initial Contact with Mentor

• Talk/Walk-Thru with Mentor

• Request a courtesy inspection
Preparing the Boat

• For well founded yachts
• Permanently installed
  - Permanent bunks
  - Enclosed head
  - Permanent galley
  - Comfortable cruising
• Fixed ballast
  - No movable ballast
  - No canting keels
Preparing the Boat

- Spare GPS and compass
- Charts ....yes, paper
- Fuel range: 250 nm
- Water: 10 gal/crew
- Emergency food and water
- 2 manual bilge pumps (above & below decks)
Preparing the Boat

• Secure items with airborne potential:
  - Floor Boards
  - Drawers
  - Stove
  - Batteries, tool boxes

• Anchor & rode

• Emergency nav lights
  - Permanent or portable

• Drogue  *(Recommended)*
Preparing the Boat

Secure mast to step

Strongly Recommended
(Safety Requirement 2.6)
Preparing the Boat

Hatch Boards securing method

• Outside cabin
• Inside cabin
Preparing the Boat

Anti-Jibe Device
Preparing the Boat

- Storm Jib with orange patches - Required
- Solent Stay - Recommended
- Storm Trysail - Recommended
Preparing the Boat

Jack Lines
port & starboard
Preparing the Boat

Rescue Devices:
- MOB System
- Retrieval System
- Life Raft
ISAF LIFE RAFT
Preparing the Boat

SOLAS Flares  Required

note: Handheld LED flare now USCG approved
- however for daytime use only
Preparing the Boat

EPIRB
Registered to boat
Required
Preparing the Boat

Personal AIS Transmitters

• Alerts those nearby of MOB
• Easily Attaches to Life vest or held in pocket
Preparing the Boat

Communications

- Satellite Phone
- VHF boat; handheld
  *(DSC/GPS recommended)*
- Cell Phone
- GPS
- Weather receiver
Damage Control

- Engine Spares Kit
  - Impellers
  - Filters
  - Belts
  - Manuals: Engine manual and parts diagrams
  - Special tools specific to your engine
Damage Control Gear
Damage Control

• Damage Control Kits
Manual Pump in Cabin
Preparing the Boat

Abandon Ship Bag

- EPIRB / GPS
- VHF (waterproof)
- Flares
- Strobe light
- Signal mirror
- First aid kit
- Water
- Emergency rations

Comprehensive listing of contents at www.landfallnavigation.com
**ABANDONSHIP BAG CONTENTS**

**SURVIVAL GEAR**
1. EPIRB
2. Handheld Waterproof VHF Radio with AA Battery Case & Spare Batteries
3. 3ea. Red Handheld & Parachute Flares and 2 Orange Smoke Canisters
4. Handheld GPS w/ Spare Batteries
5. Dye Marker in Baggy
6. Waterproof Flashlights & Spare Batteries & 12 Red Chemical Stick Lights
7. Medical Kit & First Aid Book
8. Water Maker or Water Packet Kit
9. Sea Sick Pills & Multi Vitamins
10. 4 Survival Blankets
11. 2 Large Sponges
12. Signal Mirror & Whistle
13. Manual Horn
14. Magnetic Compass

**PERSONAL ITEMS**
1. Duplicate Passports, Credit Cards & Cash
2. Personal Medications
3. Spare Prescription Eye
4. Spare Sun Glasses
5. Toilet Paper in Baggy
6. Waterless Cleansing Pads
7. Long Sleeve Shirts & Polypro. Underwear
8. Tooth Brushes & Paste
9. Vaseline/ Skin Care Sun Block
10. Box Zip Lock Bags
11. Notebook & Pencils
12. Watch Cap
13. Sun Hat

**OPTIONAL GEAR**
1. SART
2. Spare Life Raft Knife
3. Spare Life Raft Pump
4. Life Raft Repair Clamps
5. 2-4 Thermal Protective Aids
6. 2 Food Rations
7. Life Raft Survival Book
8. Rescue Kite
9. Fishing Kit
10. Waterproof Matches
11. Spare Sea Anchor
Preparing the Boat

Map of where things are:

- Fire extinguishers
- Thru-hulls
- Spare parts
- First Aid Kit *(Offshore)*

Finally, have boat inspected by approved Marion Bermuda Race Inspector.
Preparing the Crew

• Open to all ISAF Group Classifications
• At least 3 crew unless “Double Handed”
• Attend Safety-at-Sea Seminar (Mar 11-12, 2017  UMass Boston)
• Proper gear
• Pre-race medical exams
• Physical stamina and personality for offshore
Preparing the Crew
Suggested Gear

- Life vest w/harness and tether; re-arm cartridge
- Cold weather clothing
  - watch cap
  - gloves (waterproof)
  - boots & socks
- Warm weather clothing
- Cold/warm bags
- Sailing gloves
- Headlamp
- Sea sickness meds
- Sunscreen / lip balm
- Personal medications
- Valid passport
- Return crew letters
Preparing the Crew

Experience Required:

• Skipper and enough crew to manage boat must have offshore experience (250 nm)
• SAS within 5 years
  > 30% of crew
  > at least 2 of: skipper, navigator, watch captains
• Shorthanded – all 16+

First aid competency
Preparing the Crew

Training prior to the Race:
• Setting all sails
• Set storm sails
• Man overboard drill
• Abandon ship procedure
• Use emergency tiller
• Steer with rudder disabled

www.landfallnavigation safety/storm survival
# Approximate Race Costs*

**Equipment:**
- Life Raft (rental) $1,200
- EPIRB (rental) $150
- PLB / AIS (2) $500
- Sat Phone (rental) $200
- SOLAS Flares $400
- Charts $200
- Medical Kit $200
- Storm Jib $700
- Misc. Equip $500

**Soft Costs:**
- Entry Fee $950
- Crew Fee (4) $200
- Insurance Rider $400
- Survey for Rider $200
- ORR Certificate $290
- Weather & GS $500
- Fuel $350
- Food $600
- Emerg. Supplies $200
- Dockage $740

*$4,050  
*$4,430

*Based on a 40’ boat*
Bermuda Arrival

Clearing Customs only at RHADC
  • Finish after sunset, anchor in St. Georges
  • Go to RHADC in the morning
Bermuda Arrival

Entry Package provides key info:

- **Berthing** (Sun, June 18)
- RHADC will extend berthing through America’s Cup
- **Services at RHADC**
- **Re-provisioning food and fuel**
- **Repair Services**
Bermuda Activities

• Family events for all ages
• Pre-finish events for waiting “shore-crew”
• Gosling Rum parties
• Nightly entertainment
• Fitted Dinghy Races
Bermuda Activities
America’s Cup

• Tours of America’s Cup Village

• Spectator boat to view the racing

• RHADC-Home for Oracle and Golden Gate YC teams
Bermuda Activities

• Gala Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Saturday
Where to Begin?

Start a “To Do” list!
Where to Begin?

• Review “Yacht Eligibility and Requirements” in NOR
• Refer to USSER & Inspector’s Check List
• Request a mentor through the website
• Request courtesy inspection
• If uncertain about boat’s status, submit inquiry to: acceptance@marionbermuda.com
• Join us on FaceBook  Friends of Marion Bermuda

www.marionbermuda.com
Mentoring Program

• Assist with race preparation
• Provide answers from experienced owners
• Informal, One-on-one
• Phone, email, in-person
• mentoring@marionbermuda.com
Resources

Safety during the Race:
• GPS tracking (Yellow Brick)
• Satellite phone (and SSB)
• Maritime Medical Access
  Dept Emergency Medicine
  George Washington Univ
Resources

www.marionbermuda.com
• Notice of Race
• Sailing Instructions
• Safety Equip Requirements
• Equipment Checklist
• Offshore Racing Rules
• Racing Rules of Sailing

www.ussailing.org  ORR Rating

Publications
• Gulf Stream Companion by Ocean Navigator
• Offshore Sailing by Bill Seifert

Facebook  Friends of Marion Bermuda
Resources

Retailers:
• Landfall Navigation
• Hinckley Yacht Services
• Blue Water Books & Charts
• West Marine
Resources

Committee Contacts:

• Executive Director - Allan McLean
• Administration – Nan Johnson
• Registration - Al Minard
• Participation/Mentoring - David Risch
• Inspection - Paul Goldberg
• Race Operations - George Gardner
• Safety at Sea - Ed Stott
• Marketing – Ray Cullum

race@marionbermuda.com
Thank You for Coming

See You in Bermuda!