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LYRA

HINCKLEY SW 50

FIRST MARION BERMUDA 2011

**CREW MEMBERS**

STEVE BUSSOLARI  
MARK DEVINE  
LISA GABRIELSON  
AL LARKIN  
DAVE PATTON

**RETURN CREW**

TOM GREEN  
MORRIS HANCOCK  
MATT WALL  
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**HOW DO YOU SELECT YOUR CREW?**

Attract a competent and congenial crew for both legs of the trip. Delegate. Like any collaborative enterprise, people perform best and have the most fun when working with like-minded and enjoyable colleagues, and when they are given *full responsibility for stuff that matters*.

**WHAT SETS MARION BERMUDA APART FROM OTHER OCEAN RACES?**

The Race organizers and veteran mentors do a phenomenal job of preparing everyone for the trip to Bermuda. The support system for that leg is comprehensive, well-rehearsed, and complete.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FIRST TIME SKIPPERS:**

Start preparations early, at least 9 months in advance. Put Safety First, Speed Second. Spend as much time planning the return as the Race itself. The Race organizers and veteran mentors do a phenomenal job of preparing everyone for the trip to Bermuda. The support system for that leg is comprehensive, well-rehearsed, and complete. It's the trip back that you, the skipper, need to make sure is as safe, as well-planned and as fun as the trip down. Experienced mountaineers are fond of reminding rookie climbers that it's the *descent* that matters. You've got to get down off the thing. Otherwise, summiting is kind of irrelevant. Selecting a competent and congenial crew is as important to get right as anything else you do. Consider Family First. *Involve your spouse*, and in a big way, most especially if he or she won't be aboard. Delegate meaningfully ashore and onboard. Put your Skipper Ego aside and welcome an "alter ego" aboard—someone else in your crew who you can rely on for sound advice and support.

**WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO DO THE RACE:**

The Marion Bermuda Race is, above all, a sailor's race. There's nothing as gratifying as feeling a solid sea boat performing well, and as she was intended, on a sail to Bermuda. Sailors love and have a healthy respect for the sea. The scale of a large Atlantic Ocean swell, and the powerful chaos of the Gulf Stream, refresh that respect. Sailors love the wind. On the Bermuda route in June the Atlantic serves up plenty, and from every direction and force. Sailors wonder at the sky, whether clear and sun-soaked, glowing in a sunset, ragged and grey, or black and specked with a trillion stars. Such amazing stars over the north Atlantic! Sailors hold heritage in high regard. Bermuda has been a sailor's destination for centuries, and the Marion Bermuda Race has been taking sailors there for over thirty five years. The Race also encourages the continued practice of celestial navigation, a noble heritage now left to yachtsmen to preserve.

