

Teams Preparing; Double-handers to Have a Go

NEWPORT, RI (Aug. 2, 2007) -- The sailors will come from near and far, but they will all go the same distance - 175 nautical miles -- when they compete in the annual Ida Lewis Distance Race set for its third running on Friday, August 10, 2007. The overnigher, which begins and ends off Newport, R.I., starts at 3 p.m. and plies some of the most storied and beautiful sailing grounds in the world, challenging boats in classes for PHRF (spinnaker and non-spinnaker) and IRC, with the addition this year of a class for double-handed boats.

Making the hike from New Orleans, Louisiana, to defend his IRC victory here in 2006 will be Stephen Murray, steering his TP 52 *Decision*. His tactician Andy Lovell, also from New Orleans, likes to call it "a navigator's race," which translates into plenty of turning marks and tactical decisions about tide, current and weather. The Frers 80 *Hexe*, famous as the old *Boomerang*, will sail with Germany's Norbert Plambeck at the helm and an all-German crew. Ron O'Hanley (Boston, Mass.) will sail his new Cookson 50 *Privateer* in IRC division, having finished third last year in PHRF aboard a Swan 48, also named *Privateer*, while Jim Madden's (Newport Beach, Calif.) J/65 *Brand New Day*, with a mostly local crew--including J Boats guru Jeff Johnstone (Portsmouth, R.I.)--also will be joining the IRC racing. Madden was last year's line-honors winner (with his Reichel/Pugh 66 *Stark Raving Mad*), completing the course in a little less than 23 hours.

After the start just off Fort Adams State Park at the mouth of Newport Harbor, the race continues past Castle Hill and Brenton Reef, then incorporates Block Island, Montauk Point, Martha's Vineyard and Buzzards Tower into its configuration before returning to Fort Adams and just beyond to the finish line at the historic Lime Rock location of the race's host Ida Lewis Yacht Club.

Newport resident Tim Woodhouse, winner of last year's PHRF division, will again sail his Thompson 35 *Rumours*, which always is a formidable contender in around-the-buoys racing on Narragansett Bay. "The 2006 race was great.a tactical challenge, " said Woodhouse. "And the conditions were perfect, which always makes it fun." Among those joining Woodhouse on the starting line will be Daniel Heun (Franklin, Mass.), aboard the J/105 *Liquid Courage*, and Tom Rich (Middletown, R.I.), skippering his Peterson 42 *Settler*. Last year Rich sailed with a mostly teenage crew, which had a great first-time experience sailing overnight--even encountering a whale, which spouted water on them as they sailed.

Doublehanders to Have a Go

Among the sailors competing in the Ida Lewis Distance Race's debuting double-handed division is Jason Richter (Mt. Sinai, N.Y.) with his J/35 *Paladin* and Bjorn Johnson (Red Bank, N.J.) with his Beneteau 40.7 *Valkyrie*. Having sailed a slew of shorthanded events in the nearly three years he has owned *Valkyrie*, Johnson feels confident of his game. "I happen to like Newport and really like medium-distance races like this," said Johnson, who earlier this season finished third overall in the 44-boat Bermuda 1-2 race, which also started from Newport. "They are a true test for whether you're really cut out for double-handed sailing. You get no sleep, and as you do with longer distance races, you don't get the couple of days to get into the rhythm of the boat."

Johnson said important to him was that the Ida Lewis Distance Race has been newly added as one of the qualifying events for the first-ever DHORT (Double-Handed Ocean Racing Trophy), administered by the Stamford (Conn.) Yacht Club and added to that club's line-up of other prestigious trophies for which the race is a qualifier as well: the NELS (New England Lighthouse Series for PHRF boats) and the NORT (Northern Ocean Racing Trophy for IRC).

2007 IDA LEWIS DISTANCE RACE: NEWS

The Ida Lewis Distance Race is sponsored by [North Sails](#) and [New England Boatworks](#), with support from [Churchill Yacht Partners](#), [Harken](#) and [J Boats](#).

For more information and to enter, go to <http://www.ildistance.com>, or contact Event Chair Dirk Johnson at info@ildistance.com.

For details regarding sponsorship levels please contact:



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