

Ida Lewis Distance Race Becomes Annual Affair

Third Time's a Charm: August 10

NEWPORT, RI (May 24, 2007) -- The Ida Lewis Yacht Club has announced that it has made its biennial distance race--which debuted in 2004--into an annual affair. The third Ida Lewis Distance Race begins and ends off Newport, R.I., and sets out at 3:00 p.m. on August 10, 2007. Covering 175 nautical miles, the race 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.

"It's a great 'in-between' competition for boats that compete in major races off Newport and then head to Long Island Sound for late summer events," said Race Chairman Dirk Johnson. "From a spectator start off Fort Adams in Narragansett Bay, the race continues past Castle Hill and Brenton Reef, then incorporates Block Island, Montauk Point, Martha's Vineyard and Buzzards Tower into its course. It's quite the challenge, with its multiple turning marks and tide and current negotiations."

Johnson added that the race is one of the qualifying events for the New England Lighthouse Series (PHRF) and Northern Ocean Racing Trophy (IRC and Doublehanded) administered by the Stamford (Conn.) Yacht Club.

The event got star ratings last year when the Ida Lewis Race Committee sighted the finish line between a point on the clubhouse's deck--situated on Lime Rock where a finish-line party was underway--and a mark in Newport Harbor. A greeting committee of club members, bearing bottles of champagne, met each boat as it finished, shining a light on sails in the darkness when needed.

"It was reminiscent of Ida Lewis herself," said Johnson, referring to the club's namesake and lighthouse keeper who in the early 1800s saved as many lives as there are stars on the club's burgee (18). "Of course, she used a row boat to meet shipwrecks, but we like to think she was smiling on us."

An impressive array of grand prix boats, including Titan 12, Blue Yankee, Harrier, Numbers and Rima, have competed in the Ida Lewis Distance Race. Last year, 13 boats completed the competition, with the line-honors boat--the Reichel/Pugh 66 Stark Raving Mad, owned by California's Jim Madden and sailing in IRC class--finishing in a little less than 23 hours.

According to Andy Lovell, tactician aboard Stephen Murray's (New Orleans, La.) TP52 Decision, which won IRC class on corrected-time, "It was a real navigator's race." Newport's Tim Woodhouse, skippering his Thompson 35 Rumours, won PHRF class.

A Notice of Race will be available in early June.

For more information, contact Ida Lewis Yacht Club, 401-846-1969, info@ildistancerace.org, or visit <http://www.ildistancerace.org>.

2007 IDA LEWIS DISTANCE RACE: NEWS

For details regarding sponsorship levels please contact:



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