

2015 IDA LEWIS DISTANCE RACE



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### *A Different Experience Every Year*

NEWPORT, R.I. (August 16, 2015) – The Ida Lewis Distance Race, a popular sailing overnighter hosted by Ida Lewis Yacht Club in Newport, R.I., wrapped up its 11th edition this weekend with the entire 36-boat fleet finishing within the time limit – a stark contrast to last year when many entries had to retire due to inclement weather conditions. The race started Friday (August 14) at 12:30 p.m. off Fort Adams, near the mouth of Newport Harbor, with a steady breeze and calm seas that remained consistent on two courses: the 153-nautical mile Block Island Course for the IRC Class and the 121-nautical mile Point Judith Course for PHRF and Doublehanded Classes. Brian Cunha's (Newport, R.I.) Ker 55 *Irie 2* crossed the finish line on Saturday morning at 5:50 a.m., claiming line honors and taking the overall win in PHRF division.



The 2015 Ida Lewis Distance Race Start (Photo Credit: Meghan Sepe)

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“This is the first time we’ve done the Ida Lewis Distance Race, and it was a lot of fun,” said Cunha, who was awarded the Lime Rock Trophy for best-corrected time in PHRF and the Lois J. Muessel Trophy for best elapsed time in PHRF. “The conditions were perfect for us, with the wind staying between eight and 12 knots throughout the entire race.”



Brian Cunha's Kerr 55 *Irie 2* during the 2015 Ida Lewis Distance Race Start (Photo Credit: Meghan Sepe)

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Although the fleet was divided on two courses both incorporating an approximately 37 nautical mile upwind leg from Buzzards Bay to Montauk Point. The “tricky beat” called for teams to decide whether to head right or left around Block Island, and for Cunha and his team, the decision was easy, as conditions favored the left at that time. The following leg, however, proved most challenging for *Irie 2*.

“After we hit Montauk we headed back down to Buzzards Bay and had to navigate our way through a fleet of about 200 fishing boats that were right in the middle of the course,” said Cunha. Despite the unusual obstacle, the team finished the race with a three-hour lead on the rest of the fleet.

In addition to event newcomers like Cunha, a slew of returning race veterans competed, including Steve and Heidi Benjamin (Jamestown, R.I./Norwalk, Conn.) aboard the Carkeek 40 *Spookie* and Tristan Mouligne (Boston, Mass.) aboard the Quest 30 *Samba*. Both teams defended their wins in IRC Overall and PHRF A, respectively.



Steve and Heidi Benjamin's Carkeek 40 *Spookie* (left) and Tristan Mouligne's Quest 30 *Samba* (right) during the 2015 Ida Lewis Distance Race (Photo Credit: Meghan Sepe)

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“This is the sixth Ida Lewis Distance Race that I’ve done in a row, and what is great about it is you never experience the same race twice,” said Mouligne, who was also awarded the newly-established Rhode Island Offshore Challenge Trophy for best-combined score in the Ida Lewis Distance Race and the Sid Clark Offshore Race (which took place in July). “I’ve had *Samba* for a while and have done a lot of point-to-point sailing and distance racing. I’ve gone to Bermuda and back twice with the boat and raced in six New England Solo/Twin Championships, a very similar race to this one. We’ve done that offshore leg between Buzzards Bay and Montauk about 25 times, so we are starting to figure out what to look for a little bit, and which way to go. Last year, we had a really heavy-air start and a tough port-tack beat all the way up to Montauk, but this time it was a very pleasant sail, and we were on starboard tack the entire time.”

Mouligne added that the level of competition at the Ida Lewis Distance Race is what brings him back every year. “We are always trying to race against as many boats as we can. This year in the PHRF class, we had an awesome offshore fleet of 25 boats.”

The separately-scored Youth Challenge also saw a repeat victory with Alfred Van Liew’s

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(Middletown, R.I.) J/111 team aboard *Odyssey* winning the Arent H. Kits van Heyningen Trophy for the second year in a row.



Youth Challenge teams aboard the Shaun Ensor's Baltic 55 *Fearless* (left) and the J/111 *Odyssey* (right) (Photo Credit: Meghan Sepe)

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Miami Dolphins Black No Straps Trooper Backpack, Women's Chicago Bears Nike White Performance Tank Top, Antigua New Orleans Saints Signature Full-Zip Hoodie - Black [Todd Gurley Of The St. Louis Rams](#), Mens Chicago Bears Kyle Long Nike Navy Blue Game Jersey, Men's Carolina Panthers Cam Newton Pro Line Black Gold Collection Jersey, Womens New England Patriots '47 Brand Navy Pep Rally Pants, Philadelphia Eagles Black Steering Wheel Cover, Women's Pittsburgh Steelers Terry Bradshaw Majestic Black Hall of Fame Fair Catch V T-Shirt, Classic St [St. Louis Rams: Worst Nfl](#) . Louis Rams Black Roadblock Duffle Bag, Women's Philadelphia Eagles Logo Print Infinity Scarf, New York Giants Team Shine T-Shirt - Royal Blue, Dallas Cowboys Super Bowl VI Ticket and Game Coin Acrylic Display [Nike Los Angeles Rams Youth Jerseys](#), Women's Kansas City Chiefs Black Cameo Knit Pants, Men's Atlanta Falcons Antigua Black Pique Xtra-Lite Polo, Women's New England Patriots 5th & Ocean by New Era Gray/Navy Slub V-Notch Scoop T-Shirt, Mens Oakland Raiders Majestic Charcoal Squib Kick Pullover Hoodie, Women's Dallas Cowboys Mitchell & Ness Navy Visiting Team V-Neck T-Shirt, Men's Denver Broncos '47 Brand Navy Turner Clean Up Adjustable Hat, Women's Chicago Bears 5th & Ocean by New Era Navy Long Loop French Terry Cowl Neck Pullover Hoodie, Pittsburgh Steelers High End Open Back Slide Slipper - Tan, Men's Tampa Bay Buccaneers New Era Red Shadow Tech 39THIRTY Flex Hat, Nike Eddie Royal San Diego Chargers Player Name and Number T-Shirt - Navy Blue [2016 Cheap St Louis Rams Gear Jerseys Sale](#)

When asked about how her experience on *Odyssey* differed this year compared to last, 18-year-old Kate Nota (Newport, R.I.) said, “We definitely approached racing with a different mindset. Last year, the wind was pretty crazy. With calmer conditions this year we were able to focus on all the little details and make every second count. It’s good to have different conditions to test us as sailors and build up our experience.”

The Youth Challenge was developed by the race organizers nine years ago as a stepping stone for junior sailors interested in transitioning into offshore racing. This year, the Youth Challenge hosted five teams. (To qualify, more than 40% of the crew had to have reached their 14th birthday but not turned 20 prior to August 15, 2015.)

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Nota added that the *Odyssey* team consisted of seven junior sailors and two adults: Van Liew and David Brodsky. “We had a few junior sailors on our team that were new to the event and one who had never sailed in an overnight race before, so it was fun to go through the experience with them and see how excited they were.”

**Starting Line Sponsors** for the 2015 Ida Lewis Distance Race include Bluewater Technologies, the City of Newport, Helly Hansen, New England Boatworks and Newport Shipyard; **Contributing Sponsors** are DYT Yacht Transport, Flint Audio & Video, Gosling’s Rum, Mac Designs, Toni Mills Graphic Design, Triton Insurance, North Sails, Rig Pro Southern Spars and Stella Artois.

The Ida Lewis Distance Race also is a qualifier for the New England Lighthouse Series (PHRF) and the Northern and Double-Handed Ocean Racing Trophies (IRC).

For more information, visit <http://www.ildistancerace.org>

Follow the race on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)  
(end)  
(top-three results follow)

### 2015 Ida Lewis Distance Race

#### Place, Yacht Name, Type, Owner/Skipper, Hometown, Results, Total Points

##### IRC (IRC - 9 Boats)

1. Spookie, Carkeek HP 40, Steve & Heidi Benjamin, Norwalk, Conn., USA
2. Temptation-Oakcliff, Ker 50, Arthur Santry, Oyster Bay, N.Y., USA
3. White Rhino 2, Carkeek 47, Todd Stuart, Key West, Fla., USA

##### PHRF A (PHRF - 14 Boats)

1. Samba, Quest 30, Tristan Mouligne, Boston, Mass., USA
2. Invictus, Sun Fast 3600, Paul Fenn, Annapolis, Md., USA
3. URSA, J 109, Brooke Mastrorio, Lakeville, Mass., USA

##### PHRF B (PHRF - 11 Boats)

1. Irie 2, Kerr 55, Brian Cunha, Newport, R.I., USA
2. Tarahumara, J/122, Jack Gregg, Bryn Mawr, Penn., USA
3. Heron, J/120, Greg Leonard, Bowie, Md., USA

##### PHRF - Doublehanded (PHRF - 2 Boats)

1. Eagles Dare, J/111, Jonathan Green, Wakefield, Mass., USA
2. Meridian, Tartan 4600, Murray Beach, Westwood, Mass., USA

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