



Joint Trophy (Keeper)

## Bermuda Ocean Cruising Yacht Trophy

### Joint Trophy for Marion-Bermuda and Newport-Bermuda Races

There are two big ocean races to Bermuda from southern New England. The starting line for one of the races is on the south coast of Massachusetts, in Marion, held biannually in odd-numbered years since 1977. The other has been heading out from Newport, R.I., in even-numbered years since 1936, three decades after boats first raced across the Gulf Stream to the “Onion Patch.” Each race is open to boats and crews capable of crossing more than 600 miles of open and often very rough ocean.

The Marion Bermuda Race (June 17, 2011) and the Newport Bermuda Race (just recently completed, June 2010) have something else in common. Together they award the *Bermuda Ocean Cruising Yacht Trophy* for best combined performance in consecutive Newport and Marion Races. Presented by *SAIL magazine*, the trophy is open to amateur crews who sail in monohull boats in the Marion Race and in the Cruising Division in the Newport Race. The Newport Race has four other divisions for racer-cruisers sailed by amateur crews, double handed boats, and grand prix and cant-keel racing yachts.

The Bermuda Ocean Cruising Yacht Trophy originated in 2006 with then-Marion Race Director of Marketing Ray Cullum and then-Newport Race Chairman Bill Barton. “We thought it would be an excellent venue to expand the ocean racing opportunity to cruising sailors while generating increased interest in both races,” says Cullum. “As the cruising community grows, the trophy should act as a stimulus to get cruising sailors comfortable for offshore sailing by going through the preparation that our races require and participating in the events.”

That aim was echoed by 2010 Newport Bermuda Race Organizing Committee chairman Bjorn Johnson: “We and the Marion Race have a common aim in getting people out there in seaworthy boats and enjoying the ocean. This trophy adds to the appeal.”

The most recent winner is Christopher Culver from New York City, skipper of CETACEA, a Hinckley 59. The perpetual trophy remains in Bermuda. In even-numbered years, it’s displayed in the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club, which co-sponsors the Newport Race with the Cruising Club of America. In odd-numbered years, it’s home is in the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club, a co-sponsor of the Marion Race with the Beverly Yacht Club and the Blue Water Sailing Club.

The recently completed Newport Bermuda Race started on June 18, 2010 and the next Marion Bermuda Race will start on June 17, 2011. For more information about the races, go to <http://www.marionbermuda.com> and <http://bermudarace.com>.