

Dateline: Hamilton Bermuda
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Bermuda's new boat Morgan's Ghost First to finish.

Venture and *Kathleen* close behind. *Kathleen* corrects first in Class A

Preston Hutchings and his Bermuda crew aboard the new NY42 Morgan's Ghost finished first in the 30th anniversary Marion to Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race. Morgan's Ghost is the first Bermuda boat to take line honors since Robert Mulderig's Starr Trail did the trick in 2003. She finished at 11:06:34 IDT

Kathleen, owned by Jim Feeney of Marion MA, and Morgan's Ghost traded the lead in the early morning then the NY42 pulled away on a wind shift when he was able to set his asymmetrical chute and carry it to within 10 miles of the finish. During the morning *Venture* a powerful Oyster 62 owned by Peter Savage also pipped *Kathleen* on the approach to the finish. *Venture* finished at 11:29:16 and *Kathleen* at 11:32.

Under the main handicap rule for the raced, ORR, *Kathleen* corrects out ahead of the two boats that crossed the line first. By 4:50 IDT, Race scorers predicted that *Kathleen* would correct her time ahead of any Class A boats still on the course.

In the Multihull Division Duet owned by Al Santoro of Boston MA crossed the line first out of the two multihulls in the race. She finished at 14:33:20.

Derek Ratteray, Morgan's Ghost's navigator said the race was really three races in one. "We blasted out of Buzzard's Bay after a nice spinnaker start. The we did donuts at zero knots above the stream."

Skipper Preston Hutchings added, "We did a one tack jib-top reach for 36 hours. We were able to set a chute for five hours after a run-up with *Kathleen* and go a favorable wind shift.

Faith Paulson aboard *Kathleen* recapped the race. "Later in the afternoon Sunday, the wind picked up and we were making a good speed-- 8 to 9 knots--still a clear sky. By the end of the day we were making a steady 10 knots and *Kathleen* was on a roll. "

"The wind kept escalating, Paulson continued, "as we moved into the evening, so

Capt. Jim (Feeney) had all hands on deck to take down the big 150 jib (in the dark) and put up the 'blade'--a much smaller jib. Kathleen still kept her same speed, however, the crew was a lot more comfortable. Our good speed continued all night and into the day.”

Winning Class A was a special accomplishment for this classic Yawl.

Up until 17:00 IDT Tuesday 8 boats had finished. Race officials expect a group of 8 yachts to finish around 22:00hrs tonight and 5 more around 0400hrs tomorrow. The majority of the fleet should finish on Wednesday, if the wind holds and the Bermuda High doesn't build back in.

iBoattrack

Spectators on shore can track the action of the entire Marion Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race from start to finish. When the race starts June 15th in Buzzard's Bay, every boat entered in the 2007 Marion Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race will be provided with a GPS transponder linked by iBoattrack and the internet to every computer round the world. This is the second time the Marion to Bermuda Race has had a complete GPS tracking of racers. A demonstration site is available to preview iboat at <http://www.marionbermuda.com/>

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Captain's Blogs on Marion to Bermuda's iBoattrack Web site

Five skippers in the 2007 Marion to Bermuda Race have agreed to post "Captain's Blogs" on the Discussion Board. Yachts asked by the committee to write and post reports include Cetaca, Checkmate, Galileo, Kathleen and Seaflower.

The Captain's Blogs are posted at <http://www.iboattrack.com/forum/index.php> and here is the first report on the first blog. Cetacea is a Hinkley 59.3 racing in class B.

Spectators can follow the race on iBoatTrack <http://www.iboattrack.com/>

The Bermuda Department of Tourism, Globalstar, Gosling's and Kingman Yacht Center have supported the 2007 race as presenting sponsors for this year's event. As in 2005 be sure your friends and family track your progress on-line through iBoattrack from Horizon Marine.

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