

Dateline: Hamilton Bermuda
June 20, 2007

Contact:
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"Low on water; thank God for Goslings"

Enroute to Bermuda, June 17, 2007:

From DEB GAYLE crew aboard **Bremer Speck** a Nauticat 40 owned by Ron Heimann.

Well, after battling 10-12 ft seas and 25 knots of breeze, we made it through the Stream and the winds shifted due west. Given the fact that we were quite a bit west of the fleet and Bermuda, we were pleased that once cracked off, we were fetching Bermuda going about 6 knots under spinnaker. We had it made and were excited about our position. Unfortunately, the seas were still quite rolling, but to me, having a chute up in the ocean is fantastic! After about 5 hours, the winds shifted out west/northwest, too north to do anything meaningful. Especially listening to awesome music with on deck speakers

After a period of time, the wind totally limped to 1.5 knots the forecast was for extremely light winds. We struggled with what to do, realizing that we still had 245 nm to go and our ETA was sometime Sunday. Given there is life after vacation, we lost our second water tank and were concerned about our remaining bottled water, we struggled with a very difficult decision and then "Should we stay or should we go" began playing on the iPod. After about another two hours of deliberation, we voted 4-1 to turn on the iron genny and head for Bermuda. It was an extremely hard choice and we were all so very disappointed. We marked the occasion on film of Captain Ron putting Bremer Speck into gear--a very somber moment that none of us wanted.

Dinner was lasagna, salad, and Goslings--fitting as its one of our sponsors. Given our water situation we came up with a great t-shirt idea: "Low on water; thank God for Goslings". Do you think we can get a case out of it?

Last night's feature film was Austin Powers. We all needed a good laugh. The sky was amazing last night, seas calm as we were motoring along at about 6 knots towards that wonderful island. We were all in a much better frame this morning, so much so that we were dancing in the pilot house.

Out of seven Bermuda races, I've never been on a boat that has had to drop out. Then again, we are in good company as we noticed that there are other yachts that have the same breeze that we do. I've had catch rides a few times and typically I repeat I'll never do a catch ride again and only go with people I know. However, this cruise has been a blast!

The guys and Captain Ron are wonderful, easy to be with and interesting. I think we have solved many of the world's problems over the past five days. What is so great about this race is that you can put five people of different ages, professions and backgrounds together with the common interests of adventure and love of sailing, and develop a wonderful nuclear family. I personally think that this is the difference between the MBR and NBR where there are so many Category II and

III sailors. After doing both races, this one is so special to me.

We should make BDA by 0600 hrs. Thursday, given everything being equal. I've got to go--Captain Ron wants to dance again!

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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>

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