

Dateline: Marion MA
June 16, 2007

Contact:
Talbot Wilson
talbot@talbotwilson.com

Enroute to Bermuda, June 16, 2007:

From STEVEN THING Navigator aboard Selkie a McCurdy & Rhodes 38.6 footer owned by Ian McCurdy. At her 14:13 EDT iBoattrack report Selkie was 541 nm from Bermuda, standing 2nd in Class C and 12th in Fleet

Underway to Bermuda

It was a beautiful day out here and is turning into a pleasant night (not as cold as we expected). Our start was at 1:45 PM. The wind was out of the northeast at 15+ so we started under main and jib (our asymmetrical spinnaker is not rated to fly above 12 knots true).

However, we were barely a third of the way down Buzzards Bay when the wind started to get lighter so, we set the spinnaker and "tacked down wind" over near the Elizabeth Islands, then to the west to a layline for the buoy at Sow & Pigs, and then gybed for the mark. We rounded at 5:00 PM. We tried to carry the spinnaker after rounding but then decided we were sailing too far off course with poor VMG, so we put the jib up and came up to a course closer to the rhumb line.

As we were cooking dinner (Ziti with chicken & broccoli) the wind got very light and strange. After a few moments it settled in on a southeast direction at only 3 to five knots. We have not put the asym. back up cuz' we'd have to head for New Jersey (not our destination).

Just as I was typing this, the wind came around to 205m and increased slightly to 6 - 8 knots, so we just tacked. We at 41-04.6 by 70.55.3
Pretty sunset with lots of boats in view.

Mid Day, Second Day

It was a quiet and pleasant night. For a while it seemed like we were sailing (more like "ghosting along") in a big lake with lights on shore ... but they were the running lights of dozens of other boats. They were enough breaks in the clouds to see a few stars. Venus was extraordinarily bright and high above the horizon after sunset. The water is cold ... about 51 degrees ... but the phosphorescence was bright.

Winds have been light from the west (more or less ... shifting about some) and have only reached a max of perhaps ten knots.

Had a whale come "close aboard" this morning.

Steven Thing

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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.

Contact:

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Talbot Wilson & Associates, Inc.

Tel: +1 (850)432-8170 Fax: +1 (850)432-8050 Cel: +1 (850)217-7138

email: talbot@talbotwilson.com

About Marion to Bermuda 2007

The Notice of race for the 30th Anniversary Marion to Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race is online at www.marionbermuda.com.

In 2005, sixty-eight monohulls and seven multi-hulls started the race. Race organizers expect more than 100 competitors in 2007. All yachts will be scored under the ORR (Offshore Racing Rule) system, formerly AMERICAP II, and a class or classes will be scored with the IRC system that has become popular for many east coast events.

Yachts choosing to sail with celestial navigation only will receive a favorable 2% rating credit to their corrected time. They will then compete alongside yachts using electronic navigation for overall prizes. The 2% rating credit reflects the statistical difference between celestial and electronic performance in the past three Marion to Bermuda Races.

For the first time in this event, Sail Magazine will present the second annual **Bermuda Ocean Cruising Yacht Trophy**. This new prize is presented to the performing captain in successive Newport Bermuda and Marion to Bermuda Races. The first pair of these trophies was presented to two deserving captains. Jeff White of Radnor Pennsylvania sailed his Hylas 49 Makai in both the 2005 Marion and 2006 Newport ocean races and was the top boat among boats that had sailed in both events. Laura Sudarsky of New York sailed Cassiopeia to the lowest combined score considering all Cruiser Division boats racing in both races.

About the Marion to Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race

The Marion to Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race is open to amateur cruising yachts, families and friends. Participants will have the opportunity to compete in an open ocean passage with a group of friendly competitors. Sailing in this race is a life experience that can bridge the gap between generations, solidify friendships and foster teamwork, all while promoting seamanship and the love of sailing.

While the spirit of competition flows as freely in the veins of Marion-Bermuda racers as it does in sailboat racers everywhere, Marion Bermuda is a cruising yacht race. It is as much about companionship and the joy of coaxing the best performance possible out of a sailboat as it is about being first to cover the 645 nautical miles from the start in Buzzard's Bay to the finish off St. David's Lighthouse in Bermuda.

Characteristically, a Friends and Family day race is scheduled for Bermuda a week after the start; prizes in that race go to, among others, the yacht with the largest crew and the crew with the best attitude.

This prestigious race began in 1977 with its roots deep in the Corinthian spirit. The Beverly Yacht Club, the Blue Water Sailing Club, and the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club host the event.

The Marion to Bermuda Race is open to single-hulled and multi-hulled sailing vessels with a minimum hull length of 32 feet, exclusive of sprits, and a maximum length of 80 feet. In 2005, the race was open for the first time to two new categories, Multi-hull yachts and Double Handed yachts. Also for the first time, a trophy was awarded for the best finish of a yacht with an all-female crew. In 2007, scoring for IRC classes will be added to the mix. This addition opens the race to a broader spectrum of competitors.

Although Marion-Bermuda is a race for amateur sailors rather than pros, safety is a prime consideration and Marion-Bermuda's safety regulations are as stringent as any other race of its type.

All yachts are required to demonstrate to the Selection Committee that they are seaworthy and appropriate for sailing well offshore. This is a Category 1 Race as defined by the ISAF. All yachts must be inspected and meet these offshore safety requirements. Visit the race website – www.marionbermuda.com – for a complete listing of all pertinent details.

The Marion to Bermuda Race includes both a Celestial and an Electronic division with equal distribution of prizes to both groups, with the exception of the Navigator Trophy, which is awarded to the Celestial winner. The fleet will be scored under the ORR and the IRC Rating Systems.

For complete information on the 16th biennial Marion to Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race including all the dates and deadlines, entry list and much more go to www.marionbermuda.com

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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