



**For Immediate Release**

## **Marion Bermuda Race hosts Ocean Navigator's Celestial Navigation Seminar**

Marion, MA: February 20, 2012 — It's time to improve your fundamental seamanship skills. Join the Marion Bermuda Race Team for an *Introduction to Celestial Navigation Seminar* Presented by Ocean Navigator School of Seamanship at the Sippican Women's Club in Marion, MA on May 4 – 5, 2013.

This seminar is a hands-on course covering basic celestial theory, sight reduction of sun, moon, planets, stars, and specialty sights of certain bodies, like the noon sun sight and latitude by Polaris. The seminar goes hand in hand with the Celestial Navigation Division of the Marion Bermuda Race starting June 14<sup>th</sup> and is perfect for any sailors contemplating an ocean crossing or a cruising adventure.

The class covers related topics such as time and time zones, sight planning, sextant accessories and offshore navigation plotting techniques, especially dead reckoning. Practical plotting of each kind of sight, as well as celestial running fixes, is covered in detail. Sextant use is discussed during one session, but no sights actually are taken during the class.

The emphasis is on practical use of celestial navigation, with plenty of pencil and paper work. (Up to a dozen sights are reduced and plotted during the weekend, with numerous additional exercises.) using H.O. 249 and H.O. 229 in conjunction with the Nautical Almanac.

Students will find the Introduction to Celestial Navigation seminar to be a comprehensive, yet fast-paced, celestial navigation course. Over the past dozen years, alumni have navigated in Marion-Bermuda Races (even won on occasion!) and have made numerous celestial-only ocean crossings.

A review of basic navigation concepts such as chart work, plotting, true to magnetic course conversion, DR, time/speed/distance, etc. is recommended.

For those who have had no previous exposure to the subject reading one of the following books before the seminar would be helpful: *Celestial Navigation in a Nutshell* by Hewitt Schlereth or *The Celestial Navigation Mystery Solved* by David Owen Bell (Landfall Navigation 203-851-3176 <http://www.landfallnavigation.com> [www.landfallnavigation.com](http://www.landfallnavigation.com)). For sextant use and care, try "The Sextant Handbook" by Robert Bauer.

Students should bring to class: (1) Current Nautical Almanac (either blue or orange version) (2) Volume 2 of H.O. 249, (3) parallel rules and dividers. Optional is volume 1 of H.O. 229.

The Sippican Women's Club is located on Front Street near Tabor Academy in Marion Massachusetts Hours are 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Your instructor is Tim Queeney, Editor of Ocean Navigator. The cost is \$295 per student, \$450 per couple payable by April 22nd by check or credit card. Navigators under the age of 19 may attend for half-price.

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#### About the Marion Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race Association

Since its inception in 1977, the biennial Marion Bermuda Race has been a premier 645 mile ocean race and sailing event which appeals to a broad range of cruising and racing enthusiasts. The spirit of the race is one focused on Family and Fun, and all yachts and crew are participating for the joy and pleasure of sailing, competition, and the camaraderie that accompanies such an offshore event. The Marion Bermuda Race encourages the development of blue water sailing skills on seaworthy yachts that can be handled safely offshore with limited crew. The Marion Bermuda Race is a 501(c)(3) organization and among other educational efforts, supports and encourages [Youth Sailing](#) programs. The Marion to Bermuda Race is organized and run entirely by hundreds of volunteering members of The [Beverly Yacht Club](#) (BYC), [The Blue Water Sailing Club](#) (BWSC) and [The Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club](#) (RHADC) for the Marion Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race Association.

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**2011 Race PHOTOS:** <http://www.spectrumphotofg.com/marionbermuda/index.html>

**2011 Race Results may be found here:** <http://www.marionbermuda.com/index.php?page=results>

**Website:** [www.marionbermuda.com](http://www.marionbermuda.com)

**Race Forum/Discussion:** <http://racetobermuda.ning.com>

**BLOG:** <http://marionbermuda.wordpress.com>

