



## Marion Bermuda— Fast Start... The Race is On

Follow all the yachts in the Marion Bermuda Race on the Yellow Brick tracker program sponsored by Kingman Yacht Center. It's available on the Marion Bermuda web site—  
<http://www.marionbermuda.com/>

Marion, MA – June 14, 2013: The 19<sup>th</sup> Marion Bermuda Race is underway with a fast start. Of the thirty-five boats that had finally registered, thirty-four made it to the line. *Warm Rain*, a 32-foot Pacific Seacraft that was the smallest boat in the fleet, scratched yesterday. *Spirit of Bermuda*, the sole Classic Division entry crossed the line alone thus first in the first start. Celebrity journalist Geraldo Rivera in the Founder Division Class A *Voyager* was last in the last start to cross the line.

Jonathan Harrison, skipper of *Warm Rain*, had been planning for this race for 3 years. He decided to withdraw when two of his small crew needed to go home for personal reasons. Harrison had been invited to sail on Gary Nackman's Briston 42 *Blue Note* in 2011. Jonathan told Gary about his plight and Gary invited him to join the crew on *Blue Note*, saving his dream. That kind of gesture speaks volumes about the Marion Bermuda Race attitude.

The Classic Division started at 12:10, followed by founders Class C at 12:45, Class B at 13:00 and Class C at 13:15. No boats were over early even though they had a broad reach start in 18-22 knots of wind. They were going against the incoming tide, which no doubt helped.

The two biggest boats in the Race, *Spirit of Bermuda* at 112' length overall and *Shindig* at 68 feet, got impressive starts. Spirit had all her laundry out... 3 jibs, a main and a mizzen. *Shindig*, starting in the final group, was the first boat to fly a spinnaker. They have a good shot at line honors with a crew of cadets from Massachusetts Maritime Academy aboard and the former owner, Arthur Burke of Dartmouth, as well as MMA coach Chuck Fontaine and a handful of experienced crew. *Shindig* is a lighter, more modern design that can hold speed in lighter winds.

A crew member from *Shindig* texted a friend shortly after the start... "hitting 22.5 knots." A powerboat alongside tracked them at a steady 17 knots.

By the 3pm update on YellowBrick, *Shindig* was breathing down *Spirit's* neck. By the 4pm report, they will be flying their spinnaker and surfing ahead of the fleet to Bermuda.

The traditional St David's Lighthouse volunteer party in Bermuda is scheduled for Monday afternoon. The skipper and crew of *Shindig* could be at the party, if the wind holds.

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All in Bermuda are welcome to share in the post-race festivities and come down to the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club to walk the docks and see all of the yachts that have sailed from Marion in the classic ocean race. Celebrate the week of the solstice at RHSADC, Bermuda Style.

**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.spectrumphoto.org/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>