



Follow your friends to Bermuda

iBoattrack shows the way.

By Talbot Wilson

Marion, Massachusetts, June 18, 2009: As the forty-eight entries in the 2009 Marion to Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race make their way out of Buzzards Bay Friday afternoon, you won't be able to see their progress, but you can follow the race 24/7 on iBoattrack <http://www.iboattrack.com/racetracking.html> or by going to <http://www.marionbermuda.com/index.shtml> and then clicking on <Track the Race>.



Each yacht will carry an electronic transponder that periodically sends its position to iBoattrack headquarters. Data then presented on the web includes each boat's position and its speed and heading since the last report. The yacht's positions are overlaid on a chart of the course that can also show forecasted winds and a thermal map of the Gulf Stream Current crossing the course to Bermuda.

According to the preliminary scratch sheet issued on Wednesday afternoon, the monohull fleet is divided into four classes, two with eleven each and two with twelve boats. Overall, twelve of the boats have chosen to race using celestial navigation only and receive a 2% rating credit in competition for class and fleet prizes. The Gosling's Founders Trophy is awarded to the monohull yacht with the best corrected time in the fleet.

Overall twenty-four regional/special prizes will be awarded and the top four boats in each monohull boats in each class will be recognized with trophies five class.

The first attention signal will be given at 12:30 EDT from the starting line set approximately four nautical miles from Marion's Sippican Harbor. The four classes start at fifteen-minute intervals. The multihull sequence starts on Saturday at 11:00 EDT and there will be one start for the two multihull entries.



On their way out of Buzzards Bay, yachts stay West of Penikese Island and the Sow & Pigs Reef buoy then sail the 645-nauticle mile Atlantic Ocean course across the Gulf Stream to the finish off St. David's Lighthouse, Bermuda. On their approach to Bermuda the yachts must stay to seaward (East) of four marks lining Bermuda's northern reefs ... North Rock Beacon, Kitchen Shoal Beacon, Mills Breaker Buoy and the St. George's Channel Sea Buoy.



Bermuda Sailors invade Marion

Monohulls start June 19th. Multihulls to follow the next day.

Marion, Massachusetts, June 17, 2009: Crews of two of the three Bermuda yachts entered in the 2009 Marion Bermuda Race were on hand in Marion, Massachusetts Tuesday preparing for the Friday start of the 17th sailing of this prestigious event. As the starting time approaches, they will be joined by about a thousand sailors... crews of