



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 8 Bells – Remembrance of Geoffrey R. “Dickie” Bird Co-Founder Marion Bermuda Race



It is with deep sadness that the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club (RHADC) regrets to announce the death of Past Commodore Geoffrey (Dickie) Bird, on March 24, 2011. RHADC Commodore, Robert Mason stated: “It is an especially poignant note during a Marion Bermuda race year as Dickie was one of the founders of the race. He remained actively connected with the race throughout his life both as a participant, as RHADC Commodore and as a Trustee of the race organization. Arguably without the vision of Dickie and a few others, the race would have never been started and Bermuda would be the lesser for it. His further contributions will be missed.”

Dickie took great pleasure sailing offshore and thrived on healthy competition and camaraderie. He personified the spirit of the race and loved the notion that through the Marion Bermuda Race, almost 1700 boats, many with skippers and crew just developing blue water experience, had ventured offshore to Bermuda.

Marion Bermuda Trustee, Buddy Rego recalls “As a Committee member, Flag Officer, and Trustee, Dickie held the most focused, determined meetings ever. There was never room or time for matters not on the agenda or of a long winded nature!”

RHADC’s Past Commodore, John Carey, recalls the contributions that Past Commodore Bird had made to the club as a member, volunteer and an officer, remembering “Dickie’s role in the creation of the Marion to Bermuda Race and thus his contribution to Bermuda’s nautical heritage and tourism.”

Dickie’s quick wit, unbridled enthusiasm and wisdom will be missed.

The Marion Bermuda Race starts on June 17, 2011 in Marion, MA, the beginning of a 645 nautical mile trek to Bermuda. For details on the race, go to: [www.marionbermuda.com](http://www.marionbermuda.com) . Find an up to date entry list of 53 boats at <https://event-manager.compete-at.com/Manager/event/entryList.do?eid=2953>. To share and receive preparation tips and advice, join the conversation on the Race Discussion Forum: <http://racetobermuda.ning.com>.

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

Since its inception in 1977, the Marion Bermuda Race has been a Corinthian event (amateur yachtsman who sails his own yacht without a professional skipper) and yachts are accepted by invitation. The spirit of the race is that 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 to Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race is organized by The Beverly Yacht Club, The Blue Water Sailing Club and The Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club for the Marion Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race Association.

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

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

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