

**Bob Anderson**  
Seekonk, MA

**ARIEL**

**ALDEN 44**

**4 MARION BERMUDA RACES**

**CREW MEMBERS FROM  
LAST RACE (2009)**

**JOEL BERENDES,  
GENE HEALY,  
BOB MALCOLM,  
CHARLES MCCOY,  
SCOTT WALKER,  
DICK WATERMAN**

**HOW DO YOU SELECT YOUR  
CREW?**

We are all friends and Barrington Yacht Club sailors who participate in regular Tuesday Night Series, Frost-biting, etc. All of us had some offshore delivery or race experience before our first MB race together in 2003.

**WHAT SETS MARION  
BERMUDA APART FROM  
OTHER OCEAN RACES?**

I think M/B racers are more focused on doing their best with the boat they own now, the crew they choose to spend time with, and the camaraderie of participating in a safe and well-planned event. We all work at achieving our best, but participants seem to keep the competition in perspective and enjoy the experience. We aren't professional sailors and we accept the limitation of our circumstances while taking pride in the accomplishment of a safely completed offshore race. I'm not sure this attitude is shared by participants in other off-shore races.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FIRST TIME SKIPPERS:**

Start early (like now for next year). Talk to other boat owners that have done the race recently and preferably for the first time recently. Talk to a Race Inspector to get a preliminary assessment of your boat and refine the safety and maintenance requirements. It can sometimes be a long list, so develop a list of projects and prioritize it. Equipment upgrades are nice, but only after the boat is sound and safe for a worse-case offshore passage. *Offshore Sailing* by Bill Seifert was my Bible during the initial preparation. Creating both financial and time budgets helps get it all done.

In addition, identify crew requirements early and get buy-in from all involved ASAP. It's a big commitment for everyone involved, but the owner/captain must assume the bulk of the responsibility and make the most of what others can commit to boat prep and administrative planning.

**WHY DO YOU KEEP DOING THE MARION BERMUDA RACE?**

With experience, we have come to understand the basics of the race and course and find it interesting to focus on improved performance. Regardless of the finish results, it is always an adventure and a great experience with a group of true friends who get together for the brief event. In subsequent years, with the boat mostly ready to go and the sailors ever more qualified, we take the challenges in stride and enjoy the preparation, the race, the events in Bermuda, and the leisurely delivery home, more and more.

