

DOWN WIND

THE J24 NEWSLETTER FOR THE SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN

December 31, 2007

The Thrill of Victory and the Excitement of One Design Racing!!

One Design Racing has returned to Barbados on a blistery day in October 2007. The Barbados J24 club took to the water with a compliment of 6 boats. The anticipation of months of planning and hard work has paid off as all of the boats hit the water steaming with full crews. In what appears to be the forebear of some great racing to come in future seasons. The first day of racing for the J24's in 2007 incorporated 3 races, and while thankfully there were no collisions the gauntlets have obviously been thrown down!! Some fantastic starts saw the boats jockeying for positions on the start line narrowly avoiding the necessity of leaving a few coats of paint to windward and leeward between the start boat and a screaming competitor.

One Design racing has taken the shape of many types of fleets over the decades. GP14's, Tornadoes, Lightnings, Kingfishers, Mirror Dingies, Sunfish, Lasers to name a few and not necessarily in that order. Once again boat racing has been rejuvenated in Barbados by the introduction of a popular fleet. The J24 gives the feel of big boat racing with a 5 member crew and Spinnaker racing, but it has a much more affordable feel to it. Nonetheless, the raging debates over hull design & age, sails, racing rules etc. have shown this sailor the passion for racing sail boats lives on.

Leading up to that weekend it was great to see the excitement in the club as crews feverishly worked on the boats to make both major and minor repairs so they would be ready for the racing season ahead. Congratulations go out to all of the boats that made it a successful day by being out there, and have fed the appetite for more. By the close of the year the fleet has grown to 7 boats, and there are plans feverishly being made to bring in at least 2 more early in the New Year. The Barbados J24 club has done all it can to help make this a successful year, as major plans are in the works for a National Championship, as well as various Campaigns around the southern Caribbean. We are looking forward to mixing it up on a regular basis with our neighbors. The creation of a Southern Caribbean circuit is not such a far-fetched idea.

See Page 3 for a 2008 Calendar



From the decks of Sage AKA Shakin' By Anna Hosford

Spinnaker Flying – DAY 1 ☺

It's a glorious sunny Barbados day and the adrenaline is high! ☺ We are flying our brand new spinnaker for the 1st time ever and not only that, but no one on our boat has EVER flown one before. Laughs are plentiful – I think its nerves!! Of course no chance that the crew of Sage could get out for some spinnaker practice BEFORE the first J24 race of the season! With all the work we had to do to get her race ready it wasn't to be. So Race 1, Day 1, Spinnaker still brand new just out it's wrapping!

Martin, Pete and I have 2 new crewmembers with us – Fiona and Ian – experienced sailors. Fiona has sailed on J24's previously, and as we set off she says to us "I am used to being yelled (and cursed) at so be sure you yell at me so I know how important it is! To which I replied, well you have nothing to worry about on this boat Fiona – there is no shouting or cursing on Sage. (Did I mention this was Spinnaker sailing Day 1?)

Off we set around a well thought out, fast and interesting course. We had a good start and got to the windward mark well. We rounded the mark and immediately stated the process of preparing for the downwind leg on the short reach. Halfway down the leg Martin and I shared out first of many sweet exchanges! Suffice to say it was on this leg every race that we exchanged "pleasantries"! After one too many Irish *\$%^ exchanges Fiona pipes up – "I thought this was a non-cursing, non-yelling boat"! Even the calm, cool & collected Pete Armstrong threw out his two cents that day!

A fabulous day, most importantly spinnaker intact, we head back to mooring.... All smiles and laughter once again – relief this time of course. We came fifth, but secretly happy to be alive! Did those beers ever taste cold and sweet that on this day!

Spinnaker Flying- Day 2

We won ☺ and with only two occasions to exchange pleasantries!! – Sage was Shakin and Bakin goin downwind, and we ask ourselves...Is this the beginning of something special? We can't wait for Day 3, and for next season to arrive.

2007 J-24 Race Results in the Caribbean

Barbados

J24 Class			Oct 21	Nov 11	Dec12	
Name of Boat	Skipper	Country	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Overall
Impulse	Neil Burke G Webster/G	BAR	1	2	1	4
ISIS	Reader	BAR	2	4	3	9
Jabulani	Colin Symes	BAR	3	DNS	6	16
Fadeaway	Charlie Gloumeau	BAR	4	3	2	9
Sage	Peter Armstrong	BAR	5	1	5	11
Rover	Cyril Lecrenay	BAR	DNS	DNS	4	18
Son of a Gun	Godson	BAR	6	DNS	7	20

Bequia

J24 Class						
Name of Boat	Skipper	Country	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Overall
Jabal	Nick Fosberg	SLU	1	5	2	1
HOIC	Jerry Stewart	GDA	2	5	4	2
Banana Wind	Jerry Bethell	SLU	3	12	6	3
Jabulani	Gus Reader	BAR	8	11	8	4
Loose Cannon	Edgar Roe	SLU	4	15	10	5
Rover	Anthony Gunn	SVG	5	17	13	6
Yellow Bird	Craig Gooding	SVG	6	22	13	7

Cariacou

J24 Class			Nov 16	Nov 17	Dec18	
Name of Boat	Skipper	Country	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Overall
Ambush	S Bush	T&T				1
Tempest		Grenada				2
Blew By you	R Yearewood	Grenada				3
Rover	G Reader	Barbados				4

December 2007's J-24 Performance Tips

By Geoff More

Downwind in Very Heavy Air

1. Moving the crew weight very far back (behind spinnaker trimmer) provides more control, but is slightly slower.
2. Down in the lulls and up in the big blasts maintains control and reduces risk of a death roll.
3. Keeping down in lulls reduces need to jibe.
4. Go up wind slightly past lay line and the dowse spinnaker, carefully jibe and use jib to reach to the gates.

Surfing Downwind

1. Dig low to catch and ride the waves, but important to head up to wind BEFORE the boat comes off the plane. Increases odds of catching the next wave.
2. In lighter winds, heading up powers up the boat in order to catch the wave, and timing is everything to give it the extra kick to get her surfing.
3. Anytime you can sail faster than the waves you will get to leeward mark fast no matter how much extra distance you have to sail. Its all about the Speed!!

Tragedy Strikes the Fleet in Barbados!!!

ISIS breaks away from her mooring on Dec 22, and is found by "Doc" Chevallier on Palm Island, the Grenadines on Dec 27. This editor is eternally grateful for what Doc, and his friends have done to save her from the Deep, as well for his family's hospitality while I was on island assessing the damage. We now wait with baited breath on word from Jerry Stuart on how well she will be fixed up in Tyrell Bay, and when she will be back doing what she does best...RACING!!!

Carriacou 2007:- Rover's J 24 Survival 101 Guide. By Gus Reader

Our Carriacou regatta started with "find a boat". The intrepid Wipers set off for St Lucia in search of his trusty steed 'Rover', only to find it rather battered and holed after hurricane Dean. No problem for the mighty Wipers, and with judicious application of silicone and duct tape it was off to Carriacou and the tender mercies of Jerry Stewart and his crew to make all right before competition. By the time the rest of the crew, arrived, by sea, air, ferry, the guys at Tyrell Bay Yacht Haulout had worked their magic, and 'Rover' was ready for battle.

The first battle was fought in the air with a large seabird which first perched on the windex and bent it. This so incensed the mighty Wipers that he flung something at it...probably the compass or spare winch handle, as both were subsequently missing...whereupon the bird took flight, and took the windex with it, last seen heading southwest. Wipers animal woes continued, as he was moved to rescue a puppy in distress at 1:00am got bitten, and in his haste to escape the raging beast he removed a part of his toe on a corned beef can, and leaked copiously over the pavement, hallway, apartment and anything else he could fall over. Judicious application of ice, tape and crazy glue, in that order, stemmed the flow and allowed our fallen hero to take to his bed, thus the battlefield.

So to racing, no compass, no windex, no battens, no sailing instructions....later found in Cyril's pocket, and a toeless tactician, we went head to head with the Grenadians in the form of 'Blew by You', 'Tempest', and 'Ambush'.

First race, 20 knots of breeze, We find ourselves all over Blew by you like white on rice by the windward mark, only to suddenly find ourselves head on as we round the mark, Gus forgot that all marks were to port and not starboard. So now in pursuit, and being heroes, we hoist spinnaker on a close reach in 25 knots and building, catching Blew by you we call for room way before two boat lengths, "no room" cries the indignant skipper, well "room for impending disaster" we shout as we tear past and gybe, very pretty till the next gust hits us and laid us sideways, flat and any other direction you could imagine. We felt a bit better when we got back upright to see that Ambush and Tempest had suffered the same fate, but they were still in front of us and the smart skipper on Blew by You who couldn't get it up (his spinnaker) sailed past the lot of us heroes. That was pretty much the story for that day, heavy winds, close sailing.

The next day was better, 15 knot breeze, tight competition, and a second, third and a fourth.

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Month	Day	Date	Type	Sponsor	Venue
January	Sunday	13	Carlisle Bay Regatta	Taylor's Cycle	Carlisle Bay
	Sunday	20	Carlisle Bay Regatta	Taylor's Cycle	Carlisle Bay
	Sunday	20	ORC Round the Island Race	ORC	
	Sunday	27	J24 Race Day	TBA	Carlisle Bay
	Frid - Tues	25 - 29	Port St. Louis Sail Festival		Grenada
Feb	Sunday	3	Carlisle Bay Regatta	Taylor's Cycle Blue Monkey/Escape Hotel	Carlisle Bay
	Sunday	10	Blue Monkey Regatta		Off-shore
	Saturday	16	Carlisle Bay Regatta	Taylor's	Carlisle Bay
	Sat-Sun	23 - 24	Boatyard Regatta	Boatyard	Carlisle Bay
	Sunday	2	J24 Race Day	TBA	Carlisle Bay
March	Sunday	9	J24 Race Day	TBA	Carlisle Bay
	Sunday		Moonlight Madness Race	TBA	Carlisle Bay
	Wed - Sun	5 - 9			
	Saturday	15	Carlisle Bay Regatta	Frutee	Off-shore
April	Thur - Mon	20 - 24	Bequia Easter Regatta		
	Saturday	5	Carlisle Bay Regatta	Frutee	Carlisle Bay
	Saturday	12	Carlisle Bay Regatta	Frutee Lucky	Carlisle Bay
	Sunday	20	Lucky Horseshoe Regatta	Horseshoe	Off-shore
	Saturday	26	Carlisle Bay Regatta	Frutee	Carlisle Bay
May	Sun - Sat	27- 03	Antigua Sail Week		
	Saturday	3	Carlisle Bay Regatta	SuperCentre Big B Cidel Bank and Trust	Carlisle Bay
	Sunday	4	Cidel Trophy Fundraiser		TBD
	Sun - Fri	11 - 16	Angostura Tobago Race Week	Angostura Mount	
June	Thur - Sun	01	Mount Gay/Boatyard Regatta	Gay/Boatyard	Off-shore
	Saturday	07	Carlisle Bay Regatta	SuperCentre Big B	Carlisle Bay
	Sat - Sun	14 - 15	Harris Paints Regatta	Harris Paints	Carlisle Bay
	Sunday	22	Banks Regatta	Banks B'dos	Off-shore
July	Wed - Sun	25 - 29	IOM Regatta		
	Sat - Sun	05 - 06	Match Racing - J24 Class	TBA	Carlisle Bay
	Saturday	12	Carlisle Bay Regatta	SuperCentre Big B	Carlisle Bay
August	Sun - Sat	03 - 10	Carriacou Regatta		
October	Sunday	19	J24 Race Day	TBA	Carlisle Bay
Nov	Sunday	9	J24 Race Day	TBA	Carlisle Bay
Dec	Sunday	8	J24 Race Day	TBA	Carlisle Bay

Carriacou 2007 – Continued

Day three was rough; hangovers were the order of the day, white out with rain that we could not see the marks, tough with no compass or windex, and wind gusting up to 40 knots. Three fourths for us, despite good starts, with the highlights being a spectacular broach from Tempest which ended with them dragging their spinnaker like a seine net, and Wipers brave?? Call of "Starboard" on the cat Stiletto, as she bore down on us on a Port tack at over 17 knots in howling wind. No way Jose!!" chose the wise skipper, a devout and practicing coward, especially when threatened by out of control cats!!

Take home lesson: J 24's sail sideways quite fast in that kind of breeze!!! Despite the rain and the mud underfoot, kudos to the organizers for producing a great regatta, good parties, great food and a wonderful crowd of sailors. Special mention to Jerome McQuilkin for the terrific barbecue and after regatta Sunday lime, as well as his hard work in organizing the regatta. Thanks to Robbie and his guys for their hospitality aboard their mother ship and to Geoff Evelyn for his hospitality aboard Lantana. To our fellow J 24 sailors, more J's equals more fun, we need to get out there and support these regattas in greater numbers if we want support from these guys for our regattas.



The Carlisle Bay regattas are CSA rated and all J24 boats have the same rating. The National Barbados Championships at date of printing did not have a Sponsor yet and have not been set by the Barbados J24 club, as yet.