



October 2026

BERMUDA ONE-TWO NEWSLETTER

Hello again,
This is the second newsletter in 2026.

2026 FALL SKIPPERS' PARTY

The Fall Skippers' Forum/Shore Party is scheduled for 7 November at the Newport Yacht Club, 110 Long Wharf Newport, RI 02840. Heavy Hors d'oeuvres will be provided so please let me know if you plan on attending (I need an estimate).

The following Forum/Shore Party will be in.

We actually have an agenda for this Party.

- Introductions
- Guest speaker Erica Lush - 2025 B12 Skipper and current Solitaire du Figaro Paprec in France Skipper
- NOR changes

2027 BERMUDA ONE-TWO DATES

The following is a rough schedule for the next Bermuda One-Two.

November 2026: Notice of Race is published

January 1: Online applications open

March 1: Spring Skippers' Forum/Party – Gulf Brief by Frank Bohlen

April 1: Application fee increases

June 2: Mandatory check in and Bermuda One-Two Skippers Send-Off Party

June 3: Mandatory SH Leg Skippers' Meeting, Weather and Gulf Stream Briefs

June 4 Friday: Newport to Bermuda Start

June 13: Awards in Bermuda

June 15 Tuesday: Bermuda to Newport Start

June 26: Awards in Newport

Make your plans!

SKIPPERS' REPRESENTATIVE

Josh Reisberg was voted in for the Skippers' Representative during the Newport Awards last year.

Josh has participated in three recent Bermuda One-Two races as well as racing in the New England Solo/Twin and Offshore 160 races and races in the Long Island area. Josh is willing and able to talk to potential new skippers with questions. For that matter, so are past Skipper Representatives Ray Renaud, Kristen Wenzel, Tristan Mouligne and Jon Bixby.

POTENTIAL SKIPPERS FOR 2027

The following people have stated (that I remembered) are planning on participating in the **2027: Elke Backman, Tim Brewer (2025), Pat Dionne (2025), Phil Haydon (2023, 2021, 2017), Bernhard Liegl** on his Beneteau 33.7, **Dave Peckham** in his reacquired Class 40, **Kurt Rauschenbach** and his Class 40, **Josh Reisberg (2025, 2019), Michael Schum (2017)** on his new to the race boat Karelia a Nauticat 39, **Doug Shearer (2017 – 1981)** is looking at the possibility of coming back to the

race, **SpiteSailing**, Marianna and Emma, in there newly acquired mine #837 (Go to [here](#) to see their article about their plans.), **Gust Stringos (2023, 2019 - 2009)**.
Let me know if you are interested in doing the race next year.

2026 OFFSHORE 160

The Offshore 160, which is held in the off year from the Bermuda One-Two, was held 10-12 July with an above average turnout of 13 boats registered. 2 backed out before the start so 11 boats started in two classes with all 11 boats finishing. 3 skippers were new to this race, one expressed the desire to do the Bermuda One-Two, and 5 were past Bermuda One-Two skippers. The predictions were for very light winds over the next two days, even so I gave them the new 160 nm and 130 nm courses and they worked out tremendously. They started in very light SW winds but there was enough wind to move. The first boat to finish was **Mueyu** sailed by Dave Peckham Saturday afternoon at 1320. The William J. Dubuc Trophy (First to Finish) was awarded to Dave by Muffin Dubuc and her daughter Michele. Dave's boat was quite a change from the last 160 he did; he had a mini! **Fearless**, however, sailed by Philip Haydon, corrected to first place in Class 1. The first boat to finish in Class 2 was **Eroics** sailed by Bob Green (86 years young) on Saturday at 1608. The last boat to finish was **Rhapsody**, a Crealock 34 sailed by Ted Rice, on Sunday at 1029. All but Rhapsody finished Saturday afternoon and evening. Awards were held Sunday afternoon with about 16 people participating. More information can be seen at: <https://www.newportyachtclub.org/offshore-sailing> .
The Newport Yacht Club switched website support to Clubspot which had Regatta software available, so we used it for registering and scoring.

2026 NEW ENGLAND SOLO/TWIN RECAP

The 2026 New England Solo/Twin was held 24/25 July. Twenty-three boats had registered, 5 solo sailors were in one spinnaker class, and the rest were divided into three doublehanded classes (two spinnaker classes and one non-spinnaker class). The multihulls seem to have left the scene. Twenty-one boats started and only one did not finish.

The weather prediction was beautiful for 24/25 July however the wind prediction was for very light winds, similar to the Offshore 160. Leading up to the noon start on Friday 24 July the wind was dead but as the first warning approached the wind was picking up so the first start was postponed for 5 minutes, and the boats were able to start. The wind shifted to the Southeast and they were moving real well.

The two twin spinnaker classes sailed a 93 nautical mile course (around Block Island to a buoy off of Gay Head on Martha's Vineyard to a buoy off of Pt Judith to the Castle Hill finish) and the non-spinnaker class sailed a 70 nautical mile course (to a buoy off of Block Island (NE) to the buoy off of Gay Head to a buoy outside of Narragansett Bay to the Castle Hill finish). The solo spinnaker class went 77 nm around Block Island, to Buzzard's tower, to the buoy outside of Narragansett Bay to Castle Hill finish.

The wind quickly switched to the Southeast heading out of the bay and it looked like the boats were going to finish really early but then several dead periods occurred during the wee hours of Saturday Morning. The first boat to finish was **Digger** sailed by James Phylfe in the solo Class 5 at 0425 Saturday morning and the last boat to finish was in Class 2, **Solstice**, Hyalas 46, sailed by frequent skippers Mark Gervais and Carol Tobian at 1138. The first boat to finish in Class 1 was **J Hawk** sailed by Jeff Johnstone and Tom Kirk at 0544 both elapsed and corrected time. **J Hawk** took the not common course of going east around Block Island with about four other boats. By the time **J Hawk** reached the mark at the Southwest corner of Block Island they were quite ahead of the rest of the fleet that went westward, who had a strong adverse current getting to the mark.

In summary of corrected finishes:

Class 1 Spinnaker Twin: 1. **J Hawk**, Jeff Johnstone & Tom Kirk; 2. **Fearless**, Philip Haydon & Lauren Zike; 3. **Goat Rodeo**, Todd Johnston & Greg Manning

Class 2 Spinnaker Twin: 1. **Grimace**, Ben Hodgson & Ike Bowen; 2. **Coconut**, Tom D’Albora & Ben Johnston; 3. **Unbreakable**, Thomas & son Anthony Sa.

Class 4 Non-Spinnaker Twin: 1. Larvik, Kim Andersen & William Beebe; 2. Sapphire, Rob Hamlin & Brian Leach; 3. Wild T’ing, Stephen Ammatuna & Kimbal Hall.

Class 5 Solo Spinnaker: 1. Digger, James Phyfe; 2. Windswept, Richard McCally; 3. Turbofish, Jonathan Soo.

New to solo this year was Bill Kneller on his **Vento Solare** J/109. His crew couldn’t race with him, so he decided to do the race solo. After a couple of hours his Code 0 halyard broke and ended up in the water. After collecting the Code 0 he decided to continue and finished the race. Wonderful!

This year we also raced the Offshore 160 two weeks earlier which is a singlehanded only race. The New England ShortHanded Ocean Racing Trophy is awarded to the boat that races both the Offshore 160 and the New England Solo/Twin doublehanded and performs the best of those that did both races. This year there were six boats that did both races and Fearless sailed by Bermuda One-Two skipper Philip Haydon was awarded this trophy having finished 1st in Class 1 of the Offshore 160 and 2nd in the Solo/Twin Class 1.

We also had 3 family teams sailing and the Cliff Mitchell Family Trophy was awarded to Unbreakable sailed by Thomas and son Anthony Sa who finished 3rd in Class 2.

We continue to use trackers for both races which is well received by family and friends of the racers.

The rest of the results as well as pictures and notes during the race can be seen at:

<https://www.newportyachtclub.org/offshore-sailing> .

SKIPPERS AND BOATS

- **Newport Bermuda Race and Bermuda Shorthanded-Return Race** – It was nice to see all the B12 Skippers taking part in either crewed doublehanded down to Bermuda then participating in either singlehanded or doublehanded back. Murray Beach did crew down but singlehanded back (again)!

- **Erica Lush**, who did both legs on the Bermuda One-Two in 2025 on David Southwell’s Alchemy, has participated in two Solitaire du Figaro Paprec in France, a three-stage series of single-handed offshore races that has launched the careers of numerous Vendée Globe winners. She has chartered a Beneteau Figaro 3 for the event. You can follow Erica at lushsailing.com.

- **Bob Green**, who has two Bermuda One-Twos (2015 & 2017) under his belt in Scallywag II, an Alden 46, participated in the Offshore 160 this year in a new to him beautiful Sabre Spirit 36 (good looking boat) and won his class.

- **Louis Meyer**, is giving another talk at the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club on 16 October starting at 5:30 pm. This time the talk will be on his trip on newly reacquired Strummer from Grenada to home. Since then, he has done another Bermuda One-Two. Those interested should contact the Stonington Harbor YC at **860-535-0112**.

- **Philip Haydon and Lance Ryley** gave a shorthanded seminar on April 15th, 2026 in Charlestown, MA.

- **Elke Backman**, has spent a bit of time and money on refurbishing her boat since the 2023 Bermuda One-Two attempt. Elke showed off her boat this year in the Offshore 160 where she finished second.

SAFETY AT SEA SEMINARS

- If you are looking for safety at sea seminars take a look here:

<https://www.ussailing.org/education/adult/safety-at-sea-courses/find-a-course-near-you/>

- Northeast Ocean Race Symposium – Actually this isn’t a “Safety at Sea Seminar” however it has interesting subjects related to the races that make up the Symposium, which is Marion Bermuda, Marblehead to Halifax, Newport-Bermuda, and Bermuda One-Two. This will be held March 2027, at Bently University. This will be the fourth annual run of the symposium. As soon as the itinerary is finalized, I will send it out.

MERCHANDISE

We have Bermuda One-Two burgees at \$20, shirts and hats.

BERMUDA 1-2 WEBSITE

If anyone has past year's results and pictures that are missing from the website, especially pre-1999, please let me know. I'll post the data and get it back to you if you like.

HELP NEEDED IN BERMUDA ONE-TWO BUILD UP

Help! For years we have found that the best source for new participants in the Bermuda One-Two has been veteran skippers and crews. Anyone who has done the Bermuda One-Two knows how to sail long distances shorthanded, what type and how strong a boat is needed, and how fit and experienced a sailor must be to satisfy the Bermuda One-Two's demands.

For the Bermuda One-Two to remain a top-notch sailing event, it needs new participants. Look around your yacht club or marina and among your racing rivals to see who might be interested and qualified. Talk with them; tell them about your experiences in the Bermuda One-Two and about the friends you've made through involvement in the event. Bring them to the next skippers' forum and shore party. If you cannot answer all their questions, give them the e-mail address of Josh Reisberg skippersrep@bermuda1-2.org. Or forward their names and phone numbers and/or email addresses to Roy Guay at roy@royguay.net, and we will contact them with answers.

For example, past skippers **Philip Haydon** and **Lance Ryley** gave a shorthanded seminar on April 15th, 2026 in Charlestown, MA. Also, past skipper **Louis Meyer** has given several talks at his Stonington Harbor Yacht Club on his experiences both on the Bermuda One-Two and his solo sailing adventure! We need more skippers and crew to schedule talks at their yacht clubs to spread the word.

Speaking about talks, both Philip Haydon and Joe Cooper will be doing an **“Introduction to shorthanded sailing, including issues surrounding racing shorthanded”** preceding the Skipper's Forum/Shore Party at the Newport Yacht Club starting at 0930. Please make a free reservation at <https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/introduction-to-shorthanded-sailing-including-issues-surrounding-racing> since space is limited.

SPONSORSHIP

If you know of anyone/outfit that would like to provide some money in sponsorship for the next Bermuda One-Two we would appreciate it if you would forward their information to either Roy Greenwald FansOf@bermuda1-2.org or Roy Guay. We lost sponsorship from the state of Rhode Island/City of Newport. We had a nice run with them, but that money has dried up. We need some sponsorship to defray the costs of the trackers and dockage. We have a good group of sponsors for the past two racing seasons, and I would like to thank them: New England Yacht Rigging, Quantum Sailmakers, Joe Cooper Sailing, Cay Electronics, and Gosling's.

Roy Greenwald has volunteered to help us out with sponsorship and has done a great job getting our current sponsorship. We have moved to a two-year cycle starting on the even year so that the sponsors get visibility during all our races; Offshore 160, New England Solo/Twin and the Bermuda One-Two. We expect to be reaching out for sponsorship this fall 2027 for the next two-year cycle.

EMAIL

If you know someone who would like to receive the newsletters, Notice of Race, etc. for the Bermuda One-Two, New England Solo/Twin and Offshore 160 races via email, let me know so I can add your email address to my database.

Roy Guay
Offshore Chairman
Roy@RoyGuay.net

BERMUDA ONE-TWO 2026 FALL SKIPPERS' FORUM/SHORE PARTY
SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER – 3:30PM TO 7PM
NEWPORT YACHT CLUB – 110 LONG WHARF, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Shore Party Program of Events:

1530 – 1600: Gab session

1600 – 1630: Skippers' Forum

1700 – ? : Heavy Hors and Gam session

Please let me roy@royguay.net know if you
plan on attending for estimates on food needed.