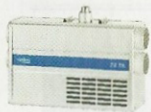


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17 Boats Headline This Year's Vic-Maui Race

Distinct from many offshore races, which are typically 600 miles, the 2,308-mile Vic-Maui race is a unique offshore experience, two races in one—see Ron Ogilvy's article "The Tactical Side of Vic-Maui," available on the Vic-Maui site. The first part is the challenge of racing out of the Juan de Fuca Strait with its fog, strong tidal currents, possible katabatic winds, and incoming shipping traffic heading to Seattle and Vancouver. Once the boats leave Dunzle Rock to port, off the Washington coast, they'll pass Tatoosh Island and Cape Flattery, and power reach down the coast until the North Pacific High gives the signal to turn right. Navigators will each choose the best transition or "slot" to the trade winds for the final gybe while avoiding an approach too close to the centre of the North Pacific High, where winds are light.

Why race in July? The North Pacific High is usually hooked to higher latitudes than California but by July the high is (hopefully) centred near 45° N. It's huge and its influence can be felt from 30° N to 60° N—plus it's nice and warm! Paradise awaits.

During this past winter, skippers and crew have been bonding as a fleet through the many intense Vic-Maui hosted courses that prepare them for offshore racing. All courses were full soon after they opened up: Offshore Preparation Seminar, Two-Day Offshore Personal Safety Course, Offshore Weather & Routing Seminar, and Offshore First Aid. And, with the Long Course of West Vancouver Yacht Club's Southern Straits Race at Easter, the first of four official Vic-Maui Qualifying Races this year, the boat's crew will begin to mesh their skills in an overnight challenge. Other Qualifying Races ahead are the Pacific NW Offshore Race, Swiftsure International Yacht Race, and Cascadian Convoy.

All boats will be winners; the Vic-Maui is a marathon, not a sprint. Boat and crew will be tested to their limits, will encounter adventures never dreamed of and will become a well-oiled team with a lifetime of stories.

While it's too late to enter the 2022 Vic-Maui, if this adventure speaks to you, it's the perfect time to consider putting the 2024 Vic-Maui on your radar, as has one boat from Nice, France.

—Charlotte Gann