Shackles & Cotterpins

The Vic-Maui Newsletter

April 13, 2009

Attention Sailors:

The Vic-Maui organizing team is well underway with planning for the Race and surrounding events. We're pleased to report that the 2010 fleet is shaping up well with indications of interest from 20 boats, ranging from 32' to 49'. We plan to update you regularly with this newsletter. Here are some of the latest developments:

Vic-Maui International Yacht Race Information Night

Northwest area sailors will have a chance to hear a presentation on the race from Vic-Maui Committee Chairman and experienced offshore racer David Sutcliffe. David is an exciting speaker and will present on the upcoming race, his experience in past editions and talk about the race's future. Exciting stuff for all sailors, especially offshore racing fans! The schedule is as follows:

Portland Friday, April 17 at the Portland Yacht Club

Tacoma Wednesday, May 27 at the Tacoma Yacht Club

Seattle Thursday, May 28 at the Seattle Yacht Club

The start time for all three presentations is 7:00 pm. Please follow the link to each of the clubs for location and directions.

Vic-Maui Committee Announces New Staggered Start Format

The 2010 Vic-Maui Race brings a new start format to the race with staggered starts taking place from July 1 to July 7. The idea behind this is to try to have all boats finish within a short time window. As pointed out by Committee Chairman David Sutcliffe, "The weather tends to change significantly over the course of the race, and a single start spreads the finishers out over a long period of time in Lahaina. This makes the fast boats wait a long time for the awards party and it also makes it hard for the slower boats to

finish in time for the awards party. Staggered starts should result in more boats finishing within the time limit, the fleet experiencing more similar weather in the middle of the course, the fleet having a tighter overall finishing time spread in Lahaina, and better participation in the awards party." This year, with different start times, we hope to get everyone to the festivities in Lahaina at the same time! See section 6 of the Notice Of Race for more detail.

Crew Bank

The Crew Bank is now available for those interested in advertising their availability to crew in the 2010 race (or return). If you're looking for a ride, this is a good place to start.

Mentorship Program

New for this year's race is a mentorship program. Every entrant will be matched up if needed with a mentor with previous Vic-Maui experience. Chief mentor Warren Hale, with six previous Vic-Maui races under his belt, reports that he has already recruited 19 mentors and is putting together a resources package.

Entry Deadlines

Please note the entry registration deadline is July 31, 2009. More detail on this and the rest of the entry timeline can be found in section 8 of the Notice Of Race.

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The Victoria to Maui International Yacht Race, first contested in 1968, is the pinnacle of Pacific Northwest ocean racing. Vic-Maui runs every second year, starting in June or July off Victoria, British Columbia and finishing near Lahaina, Maui, a distance of approximately 2308 nautical miles.

Vic-Maui challenges navigators to demonstrate their weather routing and navigational skills. Success depends on the navigator's skill in predicting where the Pacific High pressure zone and trade winds will be, nearly a week into the future. The adventure includes sailing around the Pacific High and surfing downwind in the trades. The days pass quickly with the fleet surrounded by dolphins and albatross, spectacular sunrises, sunsets and brilliant starlit nights. Teamwork gets the boats to the finish line near Lahaina, where each arriving boat is greeted with an outstanding Hawaiian welcoming party. Family and friends meet the racers to celebrate the accomplishment with hugs, leis and mai-tais. Many crew stay to spend more time enjoying Maui with their families before heading home.

 Visit vicmaui.org for Challenge ● Adventure ● Teamwork!