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As reported in *Boating* magazine, about ten miles out from Havana, the boat hit a submerged object and tore off the starboard drive. The co-pilot kept the starboard engine running at idle to help power the steering and three 2,500-gallon-per-hour bilge pumps, and used the port engine to keep the boat on plane at 55 miles per hour.

The *Apache Star* is a Kevlar and carbon fiber Deep-V race boat capable of speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour. Twin Mercury Racing bi-turbo engines generate a total of 2,700 horsepower. The *Apache Star* was designed and built in Fort Myers by Mark McManus, owner of McManus Superboats. The craft is considered the first high-speed racing vessel with seated rather than standing crew. The team wore protective safety equipment including neck braces, elbow and kneepads and Kevlar kidney belts, and were strapped in with five-point safety harnesses. In its former life as the *Apache Heritage*, the vessel won the 1992 and 1993 world racing championships.

According to *Boating* magazine, "The team had no idea what to expect when it arrived in Havana, but the sight of more than 10,000 people lining up just to see the American boat and team and to touch the bright orange hull and take a photo was more than the crew expected. "When we arrived at the dock, people were singing and chanting," McManus said.

José Miguel Díaz Escorih, Comandante of the Club Náutico Internacional Hemingway de Cuba, was there to greet them aboard the motor vessel *C Sea Bon*, taking the official time as *Apache Star* crossed a finish line between *C Sea Bon* and the buoy at the entrance to the harbor.

The previous Florida-to-Cuba speed record reportedly dates back to August 1958, when Forest Johnson drove the *Prowler* launch. Topy, powered by twin 300-horsepower Crusader Cadillac engines, the 254 miles from Miami to Havana in six hours, 24 minutes and 40 seconds for an average speed of 42 miles per hour.

Read the full story at www.boatingmag.com/apache-star-sets-new-florida-to-cuba-speed-record

PCYC Revives Round Grenada Tradition

There's something about racing around the island of Grenada that's irresistible. Don Street writes, "In October 1968 (or it might have been '69) I thought, seeing all the big charter boats in St. George's Lagoon, why not have a Round the Island Race? We had it on the first Sunday in January, as most boats would have finished their Christmas/New Year charter. Thirty-three boats showed up on the starting line. But in the fifth year, a committee took over and moved the race date to the third Sunday in January, when all the charter boats were busy, and the Round Grenada Race died within one or two years. Various attempts were made to revive it, but all attempts gathered only a small fleet of mostly local boats..."

Until 2002.

In early February 2002, capitalizing on momentum from the previous week's Grenada Sailing Festival yacht races (now Grenada Sailing Week), the Boatyard Restaurant and Spice Island Marine Services organized the First Annual Round Grenada Challenge. Twelve boats raced with the choice of going "clockwise" or "counterclockwise" left up to each skipper. A couple of years later, the organizers had formed the Grenada South Coast Yacht Club, the date had been moved to the long Easter weekend and the event was expanded into the Round-the-Island Easter Regatta, a three-day event with the Round-the-Island Race bracketed by

two days of short-course racing and preceded by a feeder race from Trinidad. In 2009, facing ongoing competition from the well-entrenched Bequia Easter Regatta, the Round Grenada Race dates were moved once more, to a pre-Easter time slot, and the event eventually lapsed again...

Until now.



Adleme, Tulachean II and Callaloo start from Carricou to race back to Grenada in the PCYC Round Grenada Regatta

The Petite Calivigny Yacht Club is a small yacht club with surprisingly big achievements since it was formed in 2010, the latest of which was to pull off a successful revival of this time-honored event. The PCYC Round Grenada Regatta, held August 22nd and 23rd, drew nine monohulls and three catamarans — despite being held in the off season, threatened by Hurricane Danny and organized in a very short time. There is obviously a yearning for something different to round-the-islands racing, because sailors and sponsors supported this regatta with enthusiasm. PCYC organized a fun round-the-island regatta, starting and finishing at Le Phare Bleu on the south coast of Grenada, and added a twist — an inviting layover night in Tyrell Bay, Carriacou, where Carriacou Marine Services pulled out all the stops to make captains and crew feel welcome.

Boats could choose to sail up the windward side and down the leeward side of Grenada, or up the leeward and down the windward side, making for much strategizing and not a little headache for the race committee setting the rules. The result was a mix of racers, racer/cruisers and cruising boats — many of which flew spinnakers with minimal crew, having a more leisurely time frame than is possible in shorter races.

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PURE GRENADA

Sailors for the Sea

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On the upward leg, first, second and third places among the monohulls went to Jeff Rose's 48-foot *Rowe*, Robbie Yearwood's *J24*, *Island Waterworld Die Hard*, and Jason Fletcher's 36-foot *Albin Stratus Apero*, all of whom chose the windward side first, thus avoiding the big hole that plagued the rest of the fleet on the leeward side. But revenge is sweet and coming back down, Champie Evans's *Elan 37*, Julie Rule, Mike Bingley's 38-foot *Benefero*, Tulachean II, and Erik Kotze's *Hunter 460*, *Desire*, placed first, second and third. In the catamarans, the *Leopard 47*, *Sunshine*, sailed single handedly by Ken Wolfel, came out on top.

Sponsors and participants applauded PCYC's initiative and promised to support this most enjoyable event annually. Long may it reign!

For more information about the PCYC and the Round Grenada Regatta, visit www.pcycgrenada.com. For full results visit <http://pcycgrenada.com/round-grenada-regatta-2015-results>.

Optimists Arrive in St. Kitts & Nevis

Fifteen new Optimists recently arrived in St. Kitts & Nevis to promote junior sailing. The St. Kitts & Nevis Sailing Association (SKNSA), headed by its President Mark Theron, joined the International Sailing Federation in 2014 and identified the need for up-to-date equipment to get its young sailors on a par with those of more established islands. With the help of local fundraising and discounts for national members negotiated by the International Optimist Dinghy Association (IODA), the initial order grew to 15 boats, two of them donated by IODA. Supplied by Shanghai builder Far East, the new Optimists will be allocated to the two clubs on the islands. Six older Optimists are being refurbished. This brings a total of 27 Optimists on St. Kitts and Nevis.

Instructor training, also sponsored by IODA, is planned and the SKNSA hopes to hold a regional Opti regatta in SKN in the future. Twelve Caribbean associations have participated in recent IODA championships. SKN hope to join them shortly and IODA is looking to expand still further junior sailing programs in the region.

SKNSA sees its role as assisting and facilitating its member clubs to develop the sport of sailing with emphasis on youth sailing programs. Sailing and the marine sector are now looking to grow within the Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis, and youth sailing is seen as a grass-roots entry to develop the youth into the future sailors of the sport and workforce/entrepreneurs of the marine industry.

For more information on SKNSA contact info@sknsa.org.

ON THE HORIZON...

Sailors for the Sea at CSA Conference

The Caribbean Sailing Association (CSA) announces that Sailors for the Sea, the leading ocean conservation nonprofit serving the sailing industry, will extend its sponsorship of the conference for another year. This coincides with the CSA Annual Conference, which will take place October 23rd through 25th in St. Maarten.

Following last year's successful sponsorship and a marine environmental seminar at the CSA Annual Conference in Antigua, Sailors for the Sea will host a set of short seminars at the 2016 Conference focused on Caribbean sailing and sustainability, and assisting regatta organizers, yacht clubs and other organizations to understand how the sailing industry and its events can be leaders in the marine field by creating long-term community change while improving our island environments.

R. Mark Davis, President of Sailors for the Sea says, "The Caribbean is the ultimate destination for winter racing and the fragile marine resources are stressed by everything that comes with increased marine business. Clean Regattas provides a framework that enables organizations to conserve the resources that keep sailors coming back year after year. Regatta events can become larger, cleaner and make headlines for their green efforts."

This year, attention will be focused on how to create sustainability initiatives, why they're important, growing your event, Caribbean environmental issues and how the sailing industry can be a driving force for ocean protection. Breakout sessions will discuss these topics from a variety of perspectives including what other regattas around the world are doing and how the Caribbean environment is changing. We will hear from past and present Clean Regatta organizers and partners about successes in their programs as well as challenges they have overcome.

To assist the many smaller regattas, clubs and non-profit events from around the Caribbean to attend the conference, Sailors for the Sea also offered grants to those

in need of financial assistance.

Of this initiative, CSA President Peter Holmberg says, "We are delighted with the support that Sailors for the Sea is providing for the next year. The CSA works very hard to help coordinate and promote sailing in the entire Caribbean region, and we appreciate that an organization like Sailors for the Sea recognizes the strength of that network. Its initiative to offer financial assistance to help more events attend the conference is wonderful and will expand the opportunity for organizers and individuals of the region to learn first-hand how they can impact change in their own communities."

To learn more about Sailors for the Sea visit www.sailorsforthesea.org. For full details of the CSA Annual Conference visit www.csaconference.org.

St. Lucia Mango Bowl for November

The fourth annual St. Lucia Mango Bowl Regatta, hosted by the St. Lucia Yacht Club, will take place on November 28th and 29th. Five classes of vessels will participate in the racing off Reduit Beach in Rodney Bay.

For the full itinerary, NOR and entry forms for Mango Bowl 2015, visit www.stluciayachtclub.com or contact [stlucysecr@gmail.com](mailto:stlucysecr@stlucysecr@gmail.com).

80th Anniversary Mount Gay Round Barbados Series

Alene Krimholtz reports: The 80th anniversary Mount Gay Round Barbados Race Series will be held from January 16th to 24th, 2016. With three days of inshore Coastal Racing, the 60-nautical-mile Round Barbados Race and a 300-mile Ocean Passage Race to Antigua, all of which can be entered independently of each other, there is something for all sailors to enjoy.



The signature Round Barbados Race on January 21st gives competitors the chance to break records in 13 different classes (size, one-design, single- and double-handed) and all offer the ultimate prize: your skipper's weight in Mount Gay Extra Old Rum.

Off the water there's fun for all the family with a special Lay Day exhibition Regatta Polo Match and of course no visit to Barbados would be complete without a trip to the home of rum, the Mount Gay distillery!

There'll be a great line-up of local and international yachts competing in 2016, and for those wishing to charter there's a multitude of possibilities ranging from J/24s to Volvo 70s and everything in between. Join us in January for a great regatta on and off the water!

For more information see ad on page 14.

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