



## Marion Bermuda— Departure Day -2

Marion, MA – June 12, 2013: Sailors at the Beverly Yacht Club in Marion were busy Wednesday completing their final registration process, getting their Yellow Brick trackers and setting computers up to download the latest weather files from the National Weather Service and other public web sites. The start was just 2 days away.

*Elusive* is a 1982 Cal 39 Mk 3 from Travers Island NY skippered by Wayne Gillikin. For the skipper and all three of his crew, this is their first Bermuda Race. They are sailing non-spinnaker in the Founders Division. When asked if he was nervous about going, Gillikin nodded, “I’m concerned.”

He and his crew were downloading a GRIB file reader to convert the data files that they will be able to pull down into readable graphic NOAA weather maps. Then they started looking at what to expect for the Friday start and down the rhumb line to Bermuda.

“Getting out of Buzzards Bay will be fast & painful”, he said. “But then we hope we don’t get trapped in a cold eddy in the light and shifty conditions we see down near Bermuda. We may have to get a few more cans of Dinty Moore.”

As a first timer, Gillikin took advantage of the Marion Bermuda race mentor program. His mentor was David Risch, the Mentoring and Participation Chair on the Executive Committee. Wayne praised the process, “Going through all the steps to meet ISAF Cat 1 safety and equipment requirements and to get the boat inspection completed was time consuming and tough. Keeping crew and replacing those who had to drop out for personal reasons was maybe tougher. David was very helpful throughout.”

Gillikin came out of the Safety at Sea seminar this spring thinking that he was really heading offshore into a storm. All the experiences discussed were negative. “We thought it would be good for them to highlight some good experiences, too, he said. All in all we are excited and ready to go to Bermuda. We are more positive.”

And all in all, this will be another interesting Marion Bermuda Race. The weather predicted for the start is wind NNW 20-25 knots maybe gusting to 30 as seen on [www.passageweather.com](http://www.passageweather.com) . There is a 40% chance of precipitation Friday predicted by the National Weather Service. The racers should have a fast run out of Buzzards Bay and maybe all the way down through the Gulf Stream with strong to moderate NNW winds.

A weak spot in the center of a high-pressure system will cross the course south of the stream and the wind should lighten first from West of the direct course to Bermuda to the

East later Sunday and Monday and back into the NNE. From there it should be 5-10kts to the finish. Winds later in the week should become southerly. So it is setting up to be a mostly downwind race or maybe a broad reach early, turning into a beat into Bermuda for the slower boats by mid-week.

The Gulf Stream as illustrated on Passage Weather looks like it will set up on Saturday to give the racers a southeasterly push down the course pretty close to the rhumb line, the direct course to Bermuda.

Jenifer Clark of Jenifer Clark's Gulf Stream commented about today's Gulf Stream conditions—"The Gulf Stream and eddies are not very favorable for the race. But there are ways to minimize the foul flow and take advantage of the favorable flow. There is a clockwise circulating warm eddy West of rhumb with favorable flow on eastern side and another warm eddy just East of rhumb (may be on the rhumb by Thursday) but it has foul flow on the western side. The stream is running in a stable pattern West to East but a knuckle could develop near the rhumb. South of the stream there are numerous cold eddies. One has foul flow right on the rhumb."

The race from Marion is really a four-part process. 1) Getting off the line and out of Buzzard's Bay and past Sow & Pigs Reef 2) getting down to the Gulf Stream 3) crossing the Gulf Stream and 4) reaching Bermuda after traversing the tricky currents and oft fickle winds of the 'Happy Valley.'

Of course, part 4 will be the heart breaker or the dream maker.

Follow all the yachts in the Marion Bermuda Race on the Yellow Brick tracker program sponsored by Kingman Yacht Center available on the Marion Bermuda web site—  
<http://www.marionbermuda.com/>

All in Bermuda are welcome to share in the post-race festivities and come down to the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club to walk the docks and see all of the yachts that have sailed from Marion in the classic ocean race. Celebrate the week of the solstice at RHSADC, Bermuda Style.

About the Marion Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race Association

Since its inception in 1977, the biennial Marion Bermuda Race has been a premier 645 mile ocean race and sailing event which appeals to a broad range of cruising and racing enthusiasts. The spirit of the race is one focused on Family and Fun, and all yachts and crew are participating for the joy and pleasure of sailing, competition, and the camaraderie that accompanies such an offshore event. The Marion Bermuda Race encourages the development of blue water sailing skills on seaworthy yachts that can be handled safely offshore with limited crew. The Marion Bermuda Race is a 501(c)(3) organization and among other educational efforts, supports and encourages [Youth Sailing](#) programs. The Marion to Bermuda Race is organized and run entirely by hundreds of volunteering members of The [Beverly Yacht Club](#) (BYC), [The Blue Water Sailing Club](#) (BWSC) and [The Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club](#) (RHADC) for the Marion Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race Association.

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2011 Race PHOTOS: <http://www.spectrumphotofg.com/marionbermuda/index.html>

2011 Race Results may be found here:

<http://www.marionbermuda.com/index.php?page=results>

Website: [www.marionbermuda.com](http://www.marionbermuda.com)

Race Forum/Discussion: <http://racetobermuda.ning.com>

BLOG: <http://marionbermuda.wordpress.com>

