



# Race Week News

ACURA KEY WEST 2007 • Presented by Nautica • Volume XX, Number 4 • Thursday, January 18, 2007



Tim Wilkes / TimWilkes.com

*Masquerade*, the J/105 owned by Thomas Coates of San Francisco, has been one of the most consistent performers in recent years at Key West. Coates has a strong, stable team that includes veteran sailmaker Chris Perkins as tactician. *Masquerade* has built a healthy 14 point lead as she seeks a rare "three-peat" at Acura Key West 2007.

## Protecting the Lead

By Staff Writers

Wednesday is the mid-zone where the series numbers are taken more seriously. The tension and suspense builds. Some top ranking teams have found their groove by now and those hoping to catch up have to work extra hard. There's a lot of silver in contention as the international fleet moves into the final two days of racing. It is a day of reckoning for the 260-boat fleet. Ties are broken, the leader board changes and no lead is guaranteed. Some class leaders are in a good position to protect their lead while others will be keeping a keen eye on the competition.

The sultry coconut breeze prevailed for the day. The water's Caribbean blue hues were mildly choppy with the usual ocean current throwing its own monkey wrench into the works. As usual, sailors had a blast.

Division 3 PRO Dave Brennan was thrilled with the racing so far. "Everything was incredibly smooth."

### Division 1

The spicy rivalry between the Melges 32 trendsetters has only gotten hotter. *Let's Roll*, Claudio Recchi Italian entry, leads with four bullets. Carroll/Kullman's *New Wave*, from Florida, sailed smart and jumped to second with Glenn Darden's *Hoss* hot on *Wave's* heels by one point.

North Carolina Melges 32 entry, *Savannah*, had some wooly moments when the chute refused to cooperate in the first race. "We lost ten boats!" said owner Walter Kennedy. Race two treated the team much better. "Rick made a great call on that last race," he says of tactician Rick Aplin. A new boat, *Savannah* was just bought last summer and she's named after Kennedy's daughter. The day also happened to be his 5-year-old son's birthday.

A poor performance in the initial race on Wednesday has brought *Alinghi* back to the pack in the highly-com-

Continued on page 2

**ACURA**  
ADVANCE.

**IN THE NEWS:**

- Lewmar Sponsor Profile ..... 3
- International Team Competition ..... 4
- Preliminary Results ..... 5-9
- Boat of the Day ..... 6
- New England Ropes Sponsor Profile ... 12
- Event Schedule ..... 12
- Sperry Top-Sider Sponsor Profile ..... 12
- Design Debut ..... 15
- Shake-A-Leg Silent Auction ..... 16
- Afternoon Entertainment ..... 17

**Thursday is Industry Partner Day**



Jim Swartz's Swan 601 *Money Penny*, crosses behind three other boats in IRC 1 class. Dee Smith is calling tactics on *Money Penny*, which enters Thursday's racing in fifth place in the class that contains the largest entries at Acura Key West 2007.

Continued from page 2.

petitive Farr 40 class, which does not allow a throwout. Skipper Ernesto Bertarelli and crew suffered a 16th in the 17-boat fleet in the fifth race of the week-long series. *Alinghi* rebounded to win Race 6, but saw its once comfortable lead decreased to seven points over *Flash Gordon 5*.

"It's like Ernesto said yesterday, there is still a long way to go in the regatta," said Helmut Jahn, owner-driver aboard *Flash Gordon*. "We are very happy to make up ground and get into contention. It is very rewarding because this is a tough, tough fleet. Any of the boats could win a race."

Former St. Mary's College All-American Mark Ivey is calling tactics for Jahn, who won the fifth race and now posted single digit finishes in five of six starts. Jahn, an architect from Berlin, Germany, has been in the Farr 40 class six years, but has been sailing with this particular crew for less than one year.

"We are starting to see some of the fruits of staying together, being motivated and having a goal," said Jahn, who placed 12th out of 38 boats at the class world championship this past summer.

Ken Legler, principal race officer on Division 1, was impressed with the way *Alinghi* rebounded to win Wednesday's second race. Tactician Brad Butterworth got the boat off the line in terrific shape then covered the closest competition brilliantly the rest of the way.

"*Alinghi* sailed a beautiful race. Their boat was able to out-point the others a bit better and seemed to be sailing a tenth of a second faster," Legler said.

Jahn is involved with commercial architecture and recently designed Bertarelli's new headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Sipping a Grolsch beer on the deck in front of Schooner Wharf, Jahn smiled broadly when asked how it would feel to beat the Swiss syndicate to win Key West for the first time.

"It would be like a dream come true, by far our big-

gest victory in the class," said Jahn, a part-time Chicago resident who has never won in Key West.

## Division 2

A major international regatta such as Acura Key West 2007 provides a strong indication of whether a new rating system is becoming popular with sailboat owners.

Based on the number of entries and the caliber of competition, the two-year-old IRC rule is catching on. There are three IRC classes containing a total of 26 boats, a dramatic increase over 2006.

Even more encouraging is the fact all three IRC classes have seen close and exciting racing. A mere point separates the top two teams in IRC 1 and 3 while there is a tie in IRC 2.

"The IRC classes have truly brought together some of the top sailing minds in the world. People like Russell Coutts, Dee Smith and Kenny Read, just to name a few, have really elevated the sailing level of the IRC boats here," said Bruce Golison, principal race officer on Division 2, which includes all three IRC fleets. "The overall talent level has made for awesome starts, tight mark roundings and close finishes. The crew work as a whole has been outstanding. With today's challenging conditions, no lead was safe and no deficit was too great to overcome."

*Hissar* and *Numbers* are engaged in an intense duel for the lead in IRC 1, which features the eight largest entries in the regatta. *Hissar*, a Farr 60-footer owned by Edgar Cato of Newport, R.I., earned its third victory of the series in Race 6 and enters Thursday one point ahead of *Numbers*.

Olympian Morgan Reeser is calling tactics while America's Cup veterans Mike Toppa (main) and Mick Harvey (jib) are the primary trimmers aboard *Hissar*, which finished a disappointing sixth out of 10 entries in



## Race Week News

January 18, 2007 Volume XX, Number 4

A Premiere Racing & Key West Citizen Publication

Publishers:	<b>John Kent Cooke, Jr.</b> <b>Caroline Burns</b>
Executive Editor:	<b>Sharon Benton</b>
Associate Editor:	<b>Thomas Spencer</b>
Writers:	<b>Rebecca Burg</b> <b>Harrison Hughes</b> <b>Bill Wagner</b> <b>Paul Dehner</b>
Art Director:	<b>Jim Herrmann</b> graphicLanguage
Pagination:	<b>Kerry Karshna</b> <b>Danette Baso Silvers</b>
Composing Manager:	<b>Danette Baso Silvers</b>
Production Director:	<b>Randy G. Erickson</b>
Production and Printing:	<b>Cooke Communications</b>
Advertising:	<b>Mike Trovato</b>

IRC 1 at Acura Key West 2006, but has posted a string of firsts, seconds and thirds this year.

"We had a terrible regatta last year... broke a lot of gear," Cato said. "The weather has been a bit kinder this year and we've been fortunate to put up some good results so far."

Cato and *Numbers* owner Daniel Meyers, also a Newport resident, have battled for years in a number of classes. Volvo Ocean Race veterans Hamish Pepper (tactician), Erle Williams (trimmer) and Jerry Kirby (bow) are part of a top-notch crew on *Numbers*, which has placed first or second in five of six races.

It could not be any closer in IRC 2, where Colm Barrington's Ker 50 *Magic Glove* and Doug DeVos' Transpac 52 *Windquest* are deadlocked at 13 points apiece. *Samba Pa Ti*, John Kilroy's newly-launched TP 52, is just four points behind in third.

*Magic Glove*, a brand new boat designed especially for IRC racing, notched its fourth bullet of the series in Race 6. Barrington, an Irishman making his Key West debut, leads the series after winning the tiebreaker based on number of first place finishes.

Annapolis resident John Bertrand is skippering *Windquest*, which had placed second in every race until taking third in Race 6. Volvo veterans Kurt Oetking (EF Language, Pirates of the Caribbean) and George Peet (ABN AMRO) are serving as tactician and jib trimmer aboard the Quantum Sail Design Group-sponsored entry.

*Windquest* is the scratch entry in the class and owes *Magic Glove* and *Samba Pa Ti* considerable time.

"*Magic* and *Samba* have both been optimized for IRC racing and we're giving them both a bunch of seconds

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 2.

per hour so that makes us feel even better about how we're doing," Bertrand said.

*Esmeralda*, the brand new Club Swan 42 owned by Japanese industrialist Makota Uematsu with Read aboard as tactician, has a score line filled entirely with firsts and seconds yet still leads *Spirit of Malouen III* by just one point.

Frenchman Stephane Neve and his crew aboard the *Sinergia* 40 have equaled *Esmeralda* with three bullets and trail based solely on a third in Race 3.

*Hot Water*, John McLeod's J/133 from Canada, had their best finish in race six. "What's fun about this regatta is that most people aren't from here. It's so international now," observed Melissa Clark, pit.

In the PHRF-2 class, Bill Hanckel's *Emocean* continues to rock Key West's world. Despite doing a penalty turn in race two, this fiery J/120 from Charleston South Carolina has three firsts so far. "We feel confident," Hanckel says. "We've got a fast boat and a good crew." His son, Will Hanckel, is at the helm. *Cash Flow*, Lloyd Griffin's Hadley 40 from North Carolina, enjoyed a pleasant rise in status from third to second place on Wednesday trailing *Cash Flow* by four points.

Hunt Lawrence's J/120 *Peregrine* improved their scores for a dramatic leap into third place. *Sheerness*, Keith Rodney's Beneteau 1st 40.7 from Boston, were amazed with how close the seconds really are in this class. "It makes for some interesting racing," mastman Kurt Sova said as the gang revived back at the docks with cold drinks. *Hurricane 4*, Rickard Melander's slick red Mumm 36 from Sweden is fighting to claw into the ranks. The *Hurricane 4* team has three new crew and team members hail from Sweden, England and the US. "It gets better and better everyday," said Melander.

## Division 3

The J/105 verve just keeps getting better and better. Thomas Coates and his Californian entry, *Masquerade*, earned a first and a second on Tuesday and took over the lead. *Masquerade* held that position with solid 3-4 finishes on Wednesday and now enjoys a 13-point cushion on *Savasana*, skippered by Brian Keane of Marion, Mass. "I



Ken Stanek / KenStanek.com

think the fleet is even stronger this season. Everyone always puts on their game face and brings their 'A Team' to Key West," Coates said.

*Convexity*, owned by Donald Wilson of Chicago, grabbed the Day 1 lead and has two bullets to its credit. Wilson is third overall with 37 points, but could be right back in contention once he's able to throw out a 25th sustained in Race 5.

"This regatta is far from over. We can't even think about places right now. We just have to sail clean, not take any chances and avoid going over the line early," Coates said.

*Blink*, Steve Howell's Californian entry, has to be the only boat that enjoys a swim after the last finish. In the warm sun, team members dive in, hold on to a line and troll themselves through the water as the boat slowly progresses forward. It's a wild sight. "Other boats look at us kind of funny," admitted trimmer Shala Lawrence. At least the

Continued on page 16



ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

*Come Sail Away*



## Corporate Merger

You know Annapolis for it's world-class sailing.  
Did you know we'd love to host **your next business meeting?**

Go to [visitannapolis.org/meetings](http://visitannapolis.org/meetings) today or call us for everything you need to set sail for a successful event.



888.302.2852 x23 or x16

# HARKEN®

INNOVATIVE SAILING SOLUTIONS

**ACURA  
KEY WEST 2007**

**SPARE PARTS &  
SERVICE TRAILER**

Neil Harvey  
**727-460-4274**

Scott Norman  
**727-692-4366**

**LOCATION:**  
West Marine parking lot,  
corner of William &  
Caroline St. across from regatta tent.

BRONZE LEVEL INDUSTRY PARTNER ACURA KEY WEST 2007

Continued from page 14.

gang is having fun during the boat's first Key West. "It's so great because the boats are so much alike. Every little mistake costs you something," Lawrence said.

Raw, untamed power is where it's at with the J/80 teams. These crews take no prisoners. Once again, Kerry Klingler's Larchmont, NY, entry *Lifted* is enjoying a solid lead five points ahead of John Storck Jr.'s *Rumor Kicks*, Bill Rose's Texas entry, remains in third.

In fourth on Wednesday, J/80 *Emotional Rescue*, Magnus Tyreman's Swedish entry, admitted to having their ups and downs. Still, placing fourth out of seventeen boats is pretty darn good. The team was all smiles back at the docks. "Hey, this is great!" says crewman Fredrik Hallsten. "It's below zero back in Sweden."

*Sweet Baby J*, Robin Team's North Carolina entry, weren't as pleased with the light conditions. "We came in hard," says Team. "We hope to do better tomorrow."

Sailed so closely at times, the stacked finishes were an exciting crush of sleek sailboats and scrambling crews in the Melges 24 fleet.

*Gannet*, Othmar M.von Blumencron's Corinthian entry from Maryland, enjoyed the full immersion in the thrill of the chase. "One little mistake and it costs you a lot," says Craig Decker, jib trimmer. Jim Golden's *Chillout*, a Corinthian entry who's also from Maryland, was in the midst of the melee. "It was pretty mixed up. There were a lot of close calls and it's not easy to find clear air," Golden says.

It's Mike Krantz's sixteenth year in Key West. Sailing his boat *Lamorak*, Krantz hails from Lake Lanier, Georgia. What draws his team to Margaritaville? "The weather, the camaraderie and the fun," says Krantz.

Class newcomer Alan Field on *Cujo*, Los Angeles, California is impressed by the close racing. Alan and his new found *Cujo* crew of only three days includes Steve Hunt calling tactics, Eric Champagne, Jeff Reynolds and Kate Schan. "Our tactician did a great job today, besides the great start. The competition in this fleet is simply amazing," commented Field on Tuesday. "We have lots to learn still."

*Joe Fly*, the Italian entry that had been runaway leader in Melges 24 class, suffered a disappointing result that tightened the standings. Owner Giovanni Maspero

Continued on page 18

## Shake-A-Leg Silent Auction Under The Big Top

Win an entry to Acura Key West 2008, or a week's charter in the British Virgin Islands with the Moorings. If a luxury week at the Bitter End Yacht Club in the BVI is more your style, that is also on the auction block with items from Honda Marine, SLAM, Hall Spars and Lewmar. A silent auction to benefit Shake-A-Leg Miami is taking place under the Big Top and the deadline to place your bids is today.

You may end up being a lucky winner of any of the grand prizes listed above, but the real winners are the many people who benefit from an amazing array of programs at Shake-A-Leg's facility, located in the heart of Coconut Grove on Biscayne Bay. All proceeds from the auction will benefit the programs at Shake-A-Leg Miami.

Shake-A-Leg Miami, Inc. was created in 1990 to provide a universally accessible watersports facility for education and recreation. Operating in conjunction with the City of Miami Parks and Recreation, the facility is open to the public seven days a week, with emphasis on persons with disabilities, youth, and families. Shake-A-Leg Miami also works with a wide variety of participants—from young scouts to youth-at-risk, from college students to seniors. Additionally, Shake-A-Leg Miami serves as an international model for the development of accessible programs open to people of all ages, genders, races, ethnic backgrounds, and level of ability. Programs featured at Shake-A-Leg Miami include basic, intermediate and recreational sailing, racing programs, kayaking, water safety, and all-around fun.

In addition to the many educational and recreational programs Shake-A-Leg provides, the facility is also a training base for three aspiring paralympic sailors whose dream is to qualify for the Olympic Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2008.

So stop by the Big Top and place your bid on the auction items. Shake-A-Leg's motto is: "Giving isn't supposed to be this much fun. Or maybe it is." To learn more about Shake-A-Leg Miami and the many program offerings, please visit <http://shakealegmiami.org>. See you under the Big Top.

One community,  
one dream,  
Shake-A-Leg Miami



SHAKE-A-LEG  
MIAMI

You are included!

SHAKE-A-LEG MIAMI, IS YOUR GATEWAY TO BISCAYNE BAY with watersports, rentals, and classes for people of all ages.

**Your support is needed  
to launch boats and dreams off the Miami shore!**

[www.shakealegmiami.org](http://www.shakealegmiami.org) (305)858-5550 ext.123 2620 South Bayshore Drive Coconut Grove, Florida 33133

Continued from page 16.

and crew finished 20th in Race 6 and saw a 14-point advantage reduced to two.

Dave Ullman, a California sailmaker and defending class champion here, won the fifth race then tacked on a seventh to put the pressure on *Joe Fly*. Former collegiate All-American Bill Hardesty (Merchant Marine Academy) is serving as tactician for Ullman, who has finished no worse than seventh the entire series.

"The Italians are still controlling the regatta because of the throwout, but now they don't have another one to waste," said Ullman, a four-time Melges 24 winner in Key West.

Ullman was asked if he was worried after watching helmsman Gabrio Zandona steer *Joe Fly* to first or second in four of the initial five races.

"Oh, I was totally concerned because they are going extremely fast in light air and it looks like it's going to be that way all week," Ullman said. "We're still at the point of the regatta when you have to take care of yourself, but there comes a time when they become more of a concern."

Ullman and his team aboard *Pegasus 505* earned the Mount Gay Rum Boat of the Day honor on the strength of the first and seventh place finishes. Jorge Fernandez and Brian Hutchinson are trimming for Ullman while Doug McLean is working the bow.

## Division 4

It took a few races, but the new kids on the block in Key West's J/109 class announced its arrival Wednesday.

Sailing through a surprising third consecutive day of light air, Gary Mozer's *Current Obsession* jumped the pack with two first place finishes to take a one-point cumulative lead over *Tastes Like Chicken* and three-point lead over *Vitesse*.

In his first Key West regatta, Mozer's crew, which pieced together three new crew members this week, finally figured out the new surroundings to surge from third to first in the competitive class.

"It just clicked today," said Mozer, who is based out of Long Beach, Calif., "It is a lot about crew work. Crew really jelled. We got some lucky shifts and a couple good starts."

The first good start came after a competitive battle between Stephen Tedeschi's *Tastes Like Chicken* and Jon Halbert's *Vitesse*. The two tried to position against each other at the beginning of the first race. While the previous 1-2 combination in J/109 class focused on each other, *Current Obsession* gladly seized the opportunity.

"Weren't too surprised with their crew, they are competitive and fast," Tedeschi said. "They know how to sail in light air, with ourselves and *Vitesse* messing around, they punched out."

*Obsession's* knockout Wednesday continued in a tight finish to the day's second race. Mozer's crew fought from



The Key West team onboard J/24 *Blah Blah Blah* earns special subclass honors by shattering a four-way tiebreak with top rival *Rumblefish* in PHRF-6.

behind, moving from third to second at the weather mark before rounding the final mark.

*Obsession's* patchwork crew tried a "wing-wing" move it had only practiced twice in the final stretch and executed it perfectly for the victory.

"It is the little things like that which make all the difference," Mozer said.

With the top of the leaderboard tight heading into the final three races, J/109 still stands wide open. Although, even a few outside the top contingent are alive.

*Mojo*, which has sailed with blazing speed this week has suffered a few setbacks, including a disqualification in Race 2 and rudder issues in the final race Wednesday to leave it 10 points behind the leader.

Writers Rebecca Burg, Paul Dehner and Bill Wagner contributed to this story.

Tim Wilkes / TimWilkes.com

## Sponsor profile:



**Company Name:** Sperry Top-Sider

**Tagline:** Sperry Top-Sider. Get Wet

**Business/Product:** Performance and lifestyle footwear, fashion apparel

**Top Executive:** Craig Reingold, President, Sperry Top-Sider

**Corporate Location:** Lexington, MA

**Web Site:** www.sperrytopsider.com

**Did you know?:** Acura Key West 2007 marks the premiere of the Sperry Top-Sider Figawi 2 Lace and Mesh. New for spring 2007, and developed in conjunction with the US Sailing Team, the Figawi2 incorporates Hydro-Grip technology for excellent footing on slick surfaces, is highly breathable and is composed of quick drying mesh and leathers. Be one of the first to buy the Figawi2 at West Marine on Caroline Street in Key West and receive a free Sperry Top-Sider gift with your purchase.

**How to contact us:** www.sperrytopsider.com

**Commitment to the sport:** As a leader in providing performance footwear for sailors, Sperry is committed to giving back to the community. Sponsorship of Race Week is a good example. In 2007, Sperry has also signed agreements to title the popular national sailing regatta, the Sperry Top-Sider NOOD Regatta and the Sperry Top-Sider

Sonar World Championship.

**History:** Since 1935, when Paul Sperry invented the world's first and most enduring boat shoe, Sperry Top-Sider has out-raced, out-cruised and out-fished any and all competitors. Sperry Top-Sider has flourished by helping all who love the water master the world's final frontier... the oceans, lakes and rivers of Planet Earth.

Surprisingly, the Sperry Top-Sider story begins with a cocker spaniel named Prince. On a raw winter day in New England, avid sailor and hobbyist inventor Paul Sperry took his dog, Prince, outside for his daily exercise. Watching closely, Paul noticed that the dog was remarkably stable, even at a full run on the snow-covered, icy crust.

Close examination of Prince's paws revealed a discovery: the dog's paws were covered with hundreds of tiny cracks or cuts going in all directions. Paul quickly realized that it was this multi-directional, "siped" surface that gave the dog superb traction on wet or dry surfaces. An idea was born.

Paul, an amateur inventor credited with several patents in his day, raced back to his home laboratory to begin working. Soon, with pieces of rubber, a razor blade and an ordinary sneaker, Paul had pieced together the prototype of the world's first boat shoe. Subsequent designs yielded the original Sperry Top-Sider, a truly amphibious shoe with anchor-like traction on all surfaces.



## THE STORM TRYSAIL CLUB BLOCK ISLAND RACE WEEK

Presented by Rolex

June 17-22, 2007

**The Storm Trysail Club invites you to the 22nd  
Biennial Block Island Race Week  
& the 2007 US-IRC National Championships**

**Sunday, June 17 Registration & Welcome Party  
Monday, June 18th to Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Racing each day and daily awards at the  
sponsor parties each evening**

Endorsed IRC certificates are required for IRC yachts with PHRF ratings 51 or faster. All yachts with PHRF ratings faster than PHRF 90 MUST race IRC. Both IRC and PHRF will be offered for yachts PHRF 90 and slower.

For further information contact:

Storm Trysail Club

Tel: 914-834-8857 Fax 914-834-6484

Email: [stormtry@aol.com](mailto:stormtry@aol.com)

Website: [www.stormtrysail.org](http://www.stormtrysail.org)