

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Jamestown boats head to Bermuda

#### Offshore race starts Friday in East Passage

Excitement is in the air as about 200 sailboats head to the starting line tomorrow for the Newport Bermuda Race.

If you haven't noticed, the docks at the boat yards on the island have been bustling with activity as the crews prepare their sailboats for the race.

The first Bermuda race from Newport was in 1906 and the Newport Bermuda Race has been sailed biennially since 1936.

According to Talbot Wilson, who handles the public relations for the Newport Bermuda Race, the first start will be at 1 p.m. on Friday. There are 15 classes of boats in the race.

The Bermuda-bound yachts will start in the East Passage of Narragansett Bay, unless weather forces the race committee to move the start out to the navigation buoy R2, Wilson said.

The start of the Newport Bermuda Race is a sight to see. From Jamestown, the best spots to view the start include atop the hill at Ft. Wetherill and the shoreline at Beavertail State Park.

The 635-mile race could be a quick sprint for the largest boats. Wilson said the 98-footer Speedboat has the fastest rating and could finish in Bermuda as early as Sunday morning, depending on the weather.

However, the average sailboat of 40 feet will probably finish on Monday or Tuesday, Wilson said.

This offshore classic sailboat race is all about the weather and the Gulf Stream. Choosing the proper course based on those two factors will determine who gets the bragging rights.

The sailboats race from Narragansett Bay to the Gulf Stream. Once there, their navigators select the best course so they will have a favorable current across the Gulf Stream. The boats leave the Gulf Stream about 50 miles from Bermuda and head to the finish line.

All boats are handicapped, so the finishes will be determined by corrected times.

As always, Jamestown is well represented on the race course. The Jamestown boats in this year's Newport Bermuda race include:

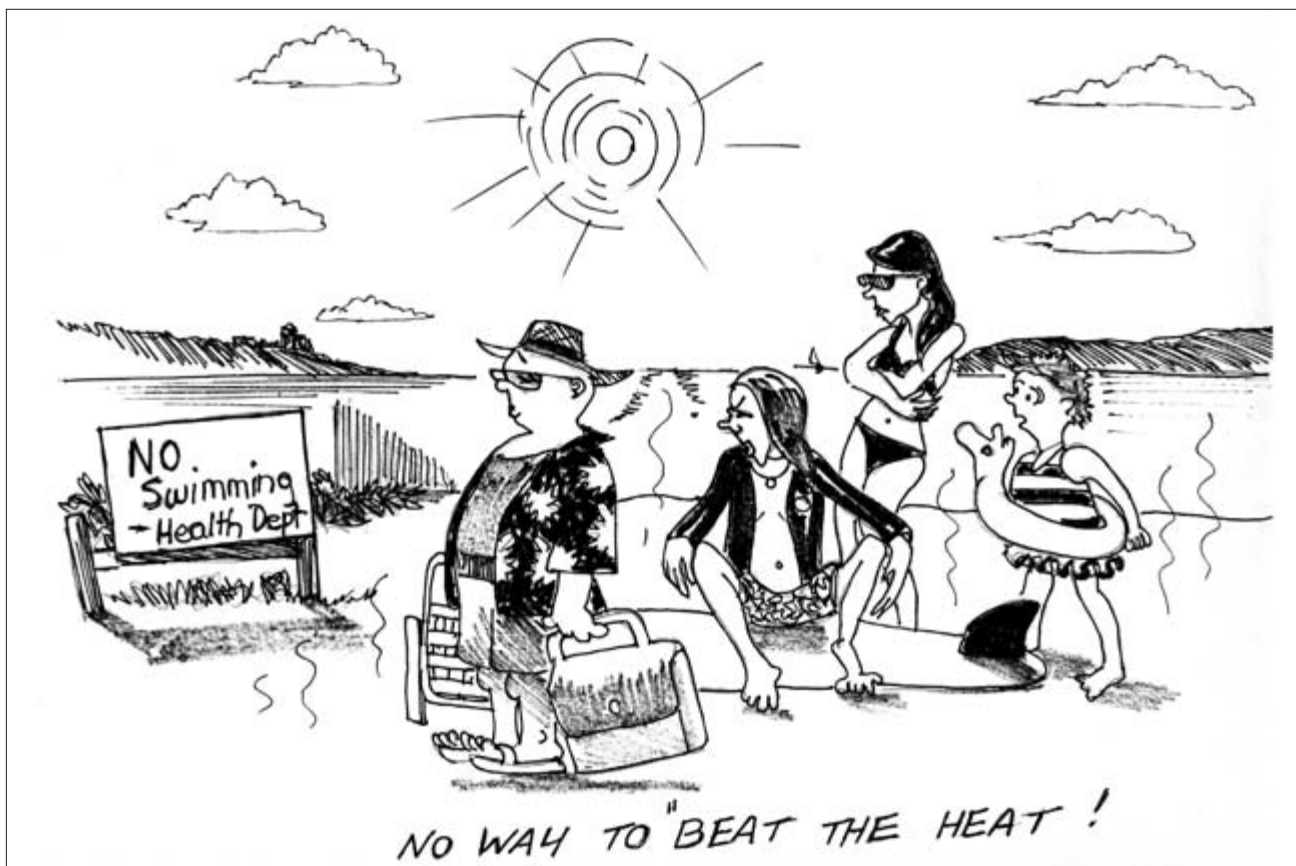
- James Bishop's J44 Gold Digger.
- Hap Fauth's RP69 Bella Mente. Hap's boat was the first to finish in the 2006 Bermuda race. His time was four days, 20 hours and 44 minutes.
- Bruce and Dorsey Beard's Sabre 386 Esmeralde. This is their second Bermuda race in the double-handed division.
- Andrew Kallfelz's Tartan 41 Aurora.
- Stephen de Voe's Swan 45 Devocian. Also aboard will be Clem Napolitano, de Voe's partner in the Jamestown Boat Yard.
- Jeffrey Urbina's Sabre 402 II Bodacious.

Each boat in the Bermuda race will carry a GPS device, so you will be able to keep track of their progress in real time. Just visit [www.bermudarace.com](http://www.bermudarace.com) for details.

We'll report on the Jamestown boats' finishes in next week's Jamestown Press.

We wish the sailors a bon voyage.

— Jeff McDonough



### Many to thank for successful event

Congratulations and many thanks to Cathryn Jamieson and Mike Larkin for organizing a successful fundraiser for the Jamestown Medical Fund on Sunday, May 18, at the Narragansett Cafe.

Sincere thanks are also due to the Dead Blues Society Band, who kept the event rocking. Kudos to band members Bob Shindell, Dave Murtough, Todd Manglass and Mike Larkin. We also greatly appreciate the many nice folks who attended, participated and donated numerous auction

## • LETTERS •

items.

Thanks also to the Narragansett owners, John Recca and Lowell Thomas, and last but not least, the bartenders who kept the good times rolling.

The Jamestown Medical Fund was created to help those in our community "bridge the gap" when medical expenses vital to their continued health exceed their ability to pay. Our focus is to assist Jamestown residents in need, cover medical expenses their in-

urance or personal resources cannot meet.

Applications may be obtained at the Jamestown Family Practice or Baker's Pharmacy or by writing to the JMF, P.O.Box 236, Jamestown, RI 02835.

All applications are kept in strict confidence.

Luann Gosselin-Bonier  
Treasurer

### No ka-booms without da-bucks

Retirement is great! The Rocket Dawgz have been taking it easy this year. We are so happy that the Rocket 'Hogs have taken over the fireworks for the town.

We had a great run of 12 years blowing up your money and now, the 'Hogs would like to do the same. I was speaking with a 'Hog the other day and he's a little concerned that they may not make their goal.

Folks, these guys are hiring the same pyrotechnics company that has delighted us for years and they are behind the eight ball. Pony up and send your donation to

See "Letters" on page 8



## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

### Week of June 19

*The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.*

#### 100 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 17, 1908

The firing of the big guns at Fort Greble yesterday afternoon and this morning jarred house on the island quite perceptively, although the intervening water to so lessen the effect that little or no damage was done to glass or plastering in the nearest cottages.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 22, 1908

Yesterday was the hottest Sunday of the summer on the island, it being only about three degrees lower than on Saturday when the thermometer was at 90 during the hottest part of the day.

#### 75 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 17, 1933

There was a large attendance at the cooking demonstration given by the Newport Electric Corporation at the Gardner Inn tearoom Friday afternoon.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 24, 1933

Dr. P. J. Lynam, graduate of Tufts Medical College, is at Dr. Bates Sanitarium, and has assumed the position of resident physician. He has opened an office for private practice in Jamestown.

#### 50 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 17, 1958

Frederick C. B. Smyth was appointed Jamestown's first permanent chief of police last night after an ordinance patterned on a similar one in North Kingstown was adopted by the Council.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 18, 1958

Grade 8 of the Jamestown Elementary School held

its first class day exercises in lieu of the usual graduation ceremony yesterday before a large assembly of parents and friends. ... Both seventh grade classes acted as honor guards for the eighth grades for the processional and recessional marches. Approximately 30 pupils from the eighth grades will enter high school in the Newport area next fall.

John Franco, Jamestown pitcher, fired a one-hitter and fanned 15, but he lost to the leading Merchants 5-3 last evening at Cardines Field.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 21, 1958

The Hudson Maintenance Corp. of Long Island City, N.Y., the lowest of three bidders (\$3,444), was awarded the contract for painting the east span of the Jamestown Bridge, at a meeting of the Bridge Commission last night. (The contract for 200 gallons of aluminum paint, at \$2.49 per gallon, was awarded to the Joseph Dixon Crucible Co., low bidder. E. R. Vieira was the low bidder at \$11,150, to replace timber encasements on 50 piers.) The commission reduced the volume contract rates for all trucks making 1,000 trips across the bridge a year. The \$1 rate was dropped to 90 cents and the 90-cent rate for the next 500 trips was dropped to 80 cents.

The Rev. Merle L. Jones, new minister of the Central Baptist Church, Jamestown, will be installed tomorrow night at 7:30.

#### 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 17, 1983

Sixty-two Grade 8 pupils received diplomas at Jamestown School Thursday night in the school gymnasium.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 20, 1983

Hundreds turned out to honor Florence J. Brazil Friday night on her retirement after more than 33 years as a teacher at Jamestown schools. ... She began her teaching career at the Carr School in 1939 after graduating from the Rhode Island College of Education (now Rhode Island College) and taught there until her marriage to the late John E. Brazil in 1945. She

See "Island" on page 7

[www.JamestownPress.com](http://www.JamestownPress.com)

All the island news. Keep up-to-date with breaking news online.