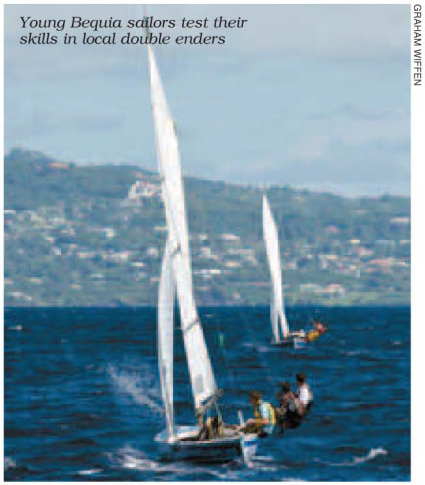
REGATTA NEWS

Bequia Youth Sailors Aspire

Sir Frederick Ballantyne, Governor General of St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and Simon Carey, Regional Manager for TUI Marine for the Windward Islands (Sunsail & Moorings), came out to support and assist in fundraising for the Bequia Youth Sailors over the weekend of November 10th, 2012, during an impromptu Optimist regatta at Young Island. BYS aims to send six young sailors to compete in the 12th Club Náutico de San Juan International Regatta, Puerto Rico in February, and needed to raise EC$40,000 to help fund the trip.



Young Bequia sailors test their skills in local double enders

GRAHAM WIFFEN

Bequia Youth Sailors was started two years ago by Bequia sailor Andy Mitchell and visiting yacht skipper Christian Schrijver, with many local supporters. More than 200 youths have experienced the program so far, with 30 to 40 meeting regularly to learn more about sailing.

Simon Carey says, "It's so important to give the young people such a great opportunity. They're not only learning to sail, but also learning important life skills along with teamwork and having something to aim for. There are great sailors among the current teams, but there is also a lot of untapped talent that needs nurturing. The juniors are put through a training schedule covering many aspects of sailing including sail trim, rigging, wind and tides, and boat handling. Once they show aptitude and enthusiasm, they move on to the local Bequia boats, the 'double enders'. These are much more difficult to sail. Despite this, it seems all of the youngsters want to be part of the double-enders team as quickly as possible.

"With the Laser Class being part of the Olympics in four years' time, we are looking at a path that leads to St. Vincent & the Grenadines being represented. As Bequia is an island with a strong sailing tradition, it would be great to have our first Olympic sailing competitors come from this program."

Both Sunsail and Tradewinds Cruise Club support the Bequia Youth Sailors, with Tradewinds providing monthly income and Sunsail providing new sails, and boats for off-island trips.

For more information visit www.bequiayouthsailors.net.

***Avanti* Takes Tempest Trophy in Caribbean 1500**

The gala prizegiving of the 23rd Annual Caribbean 1500 rally was held at Nanny Cay Marina, Tortola, BVI on November 12th, 2012. Prizes were awarded for the first three places in each class of the Cruising Division, based on corrected time, and also for things like Best Fish Story, Best Diver and Best Bruise!

The Caribbean 1500, a fun rally for cruising yachts, with the option of joining a handicapped racing division, departed Hampton, Virginia on November 3rd, 2012. The start is weather dependent, and this year the fleet departed a day ahead of schedule to ensure a favorable weather window. There are two fleets within the Caribbean 1500: the main fleet sails 1,500 nautical miles to Tortola. The ARC Bahamas fleet sails 975 nautical miles to Green Turtle Cay, Abaco, Bahamas.

The big winners in the Cruising Division were the Shannon 43 ketch *Serenity*, which took Class A, and *Keep It Simple*, a J/42 that took both Class B and the Steve Black Trophy for the Overall. *Baloo*, an Outremer cat, won the Multihull Division.

Yachts in the ARC Bahamas fleet had planned to regroup and wait out the weather in Beaufort, North Carolina, after departing Hampton with the main fleet. *Susie Q* and *Mariannina* elected instead to sail direct, and had following winds and seas for the duration of their passage, with *Mariannina* barely edging out *Susie Q* for line honors. *Irish Rover, T'ai Chi* and *Turbo's Tub* re-grouped in Beaufort and made landfall in the Abacos a few days later.

In the BVI fleet, the Tempest Trophy, awarded to the yacht that best displayed the Spirit of the Rally, was presented by rally veterans Rick and Julie Palm of *Altair*, who explained its origins: "In 1990, a yacht called *Orbiter* lost her rudder west of the Gulf Stream. It was blowing 40 knots in the Stream and another yacht, *Tempest*, stood by for 18 hours until the Coast Guard could come and rescue the crew of *Orbiter*."

The Tempest Trophy has been given each year since then to the yacht that best combines seamanship, enthusiasm, and helping others. This year, the owners of *Avanti* — who lost their crew two days before the start but decided to sail double-handed anyway and not miss the weather window — were given the award. On the second night out, *Avanti*, which has radar aboard, guided *Helia* through a series of squalls just east of the Gulf Stream.

—Continued on next page