SION BOALS INTERNATIONAL



ST. BARTH'S BUCKET Gustavia Harbor, St. Barth's, FWI | March 29-April 1

The St. Barth's Bucket hasn't been its usual self lately, with two years of indifferent lightair racing whiffling into a no-wind event in 2006. Prizes had to be awarded on the basis of starting deltas, and the race committee awarded the Escargot Cup to itself, if nothing else for valor in the face of adversity.

This year it was time to resort to more drastic measures. What is not generally known is that the members of the Bucket Race Committee have been sailing and racing together for decades, and over that time they have developed a secret weapon; one which, when all else fails, is guaranteed to bring good luck and private breezes to its wielders.

During this year's event, Thursday, the traditional practice day, was yet another light-air disappointment. At a last-minute emergency meeting, the race committee realized that if nothing else, what the 2007 St. Barth's Bucket needed most was a private breeze: It was time for the "navigating fluid."

Accordingly, at the skippers meeting held aboard Tom Perkins' breathtaking new squarerigged yacht, the 289-foot The Maltese Falcon, an alembic of grappa was duly produced and a copious libation poured over the side into Poseidon's and Aeolus' welcoming gullets.

Friday dawned sunny with 12- to 15-knot trade winds firmly settled in. Battle flags and ensigns fluttered and snapped in the breeze. The excitement in the air was palpable. The fleet, in its usual display of flawless seamanship, left the main dock in Gustavia harbor in good shape, and soon the starting procedure unfolded in its familiar cadences. The Maltese Falcon won the Round the Island course, clocking up to 18.5 knots in the process.

Some minor ratings adjustments were made and, to keep the competitors on their toes, the committee switched boats for Saturday's race, moving from a white-hulled yacht to a dark-blue one. Not even a major computer crash resulting in a hastily handscribbled scratch sheet dampened the good humor. The fleet sailed the traditional >>

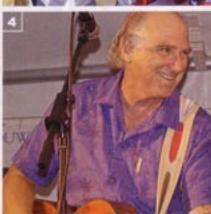




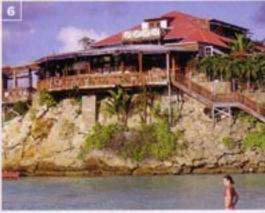
1. Alloy Yachts' new 170-foot Kokomo sails hard on the wind 2. A hopeful entry for the Mini Bucket, a home-built model regatta that entrants sail simultaneously 3. Giulia and Milena Perini take a moment to relax and enjoy the world-class sailing 4. Jimmy Buffett entertains the fleet during a surprise musical appearance 5. The Bucket fleet at rest-an awesome sight indeed 6. The Eden Roc hotel, a favorite St.

Barth's watering hole.









2007 ST. BARTH'S FLEET RESULTS & AWARDS

Huisman Spirit of the Bucket: Seaguell Churchill Corinthian Cup—Seamanship: Rebecca Cool Crew: Rebecca

Grand Dames: 1st Kaori, 2st Windcrest, 3st Avalon Gazelles: 1st Sojana, 2nd Highland Breeze, 3nd Rebecca Overall: 1st Kaori, 2nd Avalon, 3rd Windcrest

Alloy Best Overall: Paraiso

Perini Navi Best Overall: The Maltese Falcon

Escargot Cup: Parlay Handicappers Cup: Metolius Genesis Diamond Award: Amy Laing,

Churchill Yacht Partners, Whisper

ST. BARTH'S BUCKET continued







1. Racing to a tight finish 2. Giancarlo Ragnetti awards Tom Perkins, owner of The Maltese Falcon, the Perini Navi trophy 3. Soaring along aboard The Maltese Falcon 4. Alloy Best Overall, Paraiso 5. Highland Breeze and Skylge at close quarters 6. ShowBoats International Editor-in-Chief Jill Bobrow with British entrepreneur and yachtsman Peter de Savary 7. Marco Vögele, owner of Gliss 8. The crew of the 118-foot Kaori, overall winner of the 2007 St. Barth's Bucket.











Wiggley course with steady breezes, glorious sailing and an unprecedented tightly packed finish, followed by more rollicking partying. Clearly, the fleet was hitting its stride.

Sunday's race did not disappoint. The crews had two races under their belts and the wind gods were still enjoying their fluidinduced euphoria. A cruise ship anchored partially across the starting line didn't slow the fleet down. Sailing the Wrong Way Around course, off charged the yachts, once again treating spectators to a series of close finishes.

The awards party lived up to expectations at its start, then exceeded them as participants were treated to a surprise appearance by Jimmy Buffett, who regaled all in attendance with several of his trademark sailor chanteys.

Clearly the Bucket had rediscovered its groove. -ALESSANDRO VITELLI

THE 2007 BUCKET FLEET

BOAT NAME	LOA	BUILDER/DESIGNER
Atlanta	118'	Alloy Yachts/Dubois
Avalon	108'	Southern Pacific Yachts/Ron Hollan
Destination Fox Hart	r'r 130'	Alloy Yachts/Dubois
Felicità West	210"	Perini Navi/Ron Holland
Georgia	159'	Alloy Yachts
Gliss	104"	Royal Huisman/Briand
Highland Breeze	112"	Swan/German Frers
Hyperion	155"	Royal Huisman/German Frers
Jess Sea	92"	Merrifield Roberts/McLeaz
Juliet B	143"	Royal Huisman/Ron Holland
Kaori	118"	Palmer Johnson/Chuck Paine
Klosters	154"	Perini Navi
Kokomo	170"	Alloy Yachts/Dubois
The Maltese Falcon	289'	Perini Navi/Gerard Dijkstra
Metolius	84"	Royal Huisman/German Frers
Paraiso	108'	Alloy Yachts/Fontaine
Parlay	118"	Ortona Navi/John Alden
Parsifal III	177"	Perini Navi/Ron Holland
Patient Falcon	93"	Able/Nelson-Marek
Perseus	163"	Perini Navi
Rebecca	141"	Pendennis/German Frers
Seaguell	108'	Alloy Yachts/Dubois
Shamoun	108"	Klaasen/Hoek
Skylge	141"	Holland Jachtbouw/Hoek
Sojana	115'	Custom Farr Design Ketch
Symmetry	96"	Yachting Developments/German Fre
Virago	100'	Swan/German Frers
Whisper	116"	Holland Jachtbouw/Fontaine
Windcrest	98'	Hodgdon Yachts/Fontaine

103' Trehard

Zanzibar