

## SWIFTSURE REPORT Past Commodore Vern Burkhardt

### 'Swiftsure...Always a Challenge'

The 75<sup>th</sup> running of the Swiftsure International Yacht Race occurred May 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The gun for the first start, the Juan de Fuca Race for Monohulls, was fired from HMCS Nanaimo at 0900 on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. The current at Race Passage posed a challenge as it turned to a flood at 11:06 AM and the maximum flow of water was 6 knots at 1:48 PM. Many boats chose to take Race Passage to starboard. The winds were much more cooperative than the tides.

There were 198 yacht entries in 2018 compared to 175 in Swiftsure 2017.

	Entries	Finished
<b>FOUR LONG COURSES</b>		
Swiftsure Lightship Classic (PHRF)	18	16
Swiftsure Lightship Classic (ORC)	2	1
Hein Bank (ORC)	7	6
Cape Flattery Race, Light Class	36	35
Cape Flattery Race, Heavy Class	28	26
Cape Flattery Race for Multihulls	4	4
Juan de Fuca Race for Multihulls	12	9
Juan de Fuca, Light Class	16	16
Juan de Fuca, Heavy Class	24	20
Juan de Fuca, Double Handed	3	2
Total Four Long Courses	<b>150</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>INSHORE CLASSIC</b>		
Flying Sails	25	22
Cruising Flying Sails	4	4
Cruising No Flying Sails	15	12
Legends of Swiftsure	4	4
Total Inshore Classic	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL COURSES</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>177</b>

Swiftsure is one of the thirteen races in the Vancouver Island Racing Series.

The Legends of Swiftsure Race (in the Inshore Classic) was run as part of the celebrations of the 75<sup>th</sup> running of Swiftsure. There were two entries from the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. The 33-foot Summertime of Wight, owned by member Peter Thompson, has an interesting race history such as the 1966-1967 RORC races including two Fastnets. Royal Victoria YC Members Barry Goss and Dona Silversen's 45-foot Katie Ford, aged 72 years, was the oldest boat in the Legends of Swiftsure. However, the oldest boat competing in Swiftsure 2018 was the 84-foot schooner Martha representing the Port Townsend Sailing Association. Martha was built in 1907, and was entered in the Swiftsure Lightship Classic for Monohulls (PHRF).

A second race for multihulls was introduced in 2018, the Juan de Fuca Race for Multihulls. Kudos to John Green and Tim Knight for encouraging so many multihull owners to race in Swiftsure this year. There were 16 multihull entries compared to 6 in 2017. The multihull boats were racing in memory of Ian Farrier, the designer of the affordable, fast, and trailerable Farrier trimarans.

The Royal Victoria Yacht Club was represented by 13 boats in the Four Long Courses and 22 in the Swiftsure Inshore Classic. The following RVYC boats were prize-winners in the 75<sup>th</sup> running of Swiftsure:

**Swiftsure Light Classic Race for Monohulls**

Westerly, skippered by Stuart Dahlgren

First in Division 1, PHRF

First of 18 boats in Swiftsure Lightship Classic (PHRF)

Hana Mari, skippered by Ged McLean

First in Division 2, PHRF

Third of 18 boats in Swiftsure Lightship Classic (PHRF)

**Cape Flattery Race for Multihulls**

Dragonfly, skippered by Richard Ackrill

First Overall (of 4 boats)

Line Honours

First to Round the Neah Bay Mark on Corrected Elapsed Time

**Juan de Fuca Race for Monohulls**

Noflyk, skippered by Clint Abbott

First in Division 2, Heavy Class

Second in Heavy Class (of 24 boats)

**Inshore Classic: Flying Sails Race for Monohulls**

Kali, skippered Cleveland Molsberry

Second in Division 1

White Noise, skippered by Kirk Westergaard

First in Division 2

Zephyr, skippered by Dennis Woodward

First in Division 3

Flight, skippered by Brian Robinson

Second in Division 3

**Inshore Classic: Cruising Flying Sails Race for Monohulls**

Andromeda i, skippered by Rob Boeckh

First in Race (of 4 boats)

**Inshore Classic: Cruising Non-Flying Sails Race for Monohulls**

Limelight, skippered by Bart Blainey

First in Division 1 (of 7 boats)

First in Cruising Non-Flying Sails Race (of 15 boats)

Happiness, skippered by Ron Smyth

First in Division 2

Third in Cruising Non-Flying Sails Race (of 15 boats)

On the social side, racers were able to enjoy Spinnakers' Swiftsure Amber Ale and Mount Gay Rum at the Prince of Whales' Ocean Magic dock on the Thursday prior to the race. And the next evening The Midnights played at the dock party on the Causeway wharf while racers enjoyed

dancing on the dock and drinking Spinnakers' Swiftsure Amber Ale. This was the first time for a dock party and the response was overwhelmingly positive.

As part of the celebrations for the 75<sup>th</sup> running of Swiftsure, Her Honour, The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, was invited to attend an afternoon cocktail party at the Clubhouse. During this event Her Honour presented Shirley Hind, Registrar for Swiftsure, with the Jim McVie-Humphrey Golby Memorial Trophy in recognition of her exceptional service as registrar since 2012.

RVYC's 2018 Standing Committee for Swiftsure included John Abel (Principal Race Officer), Mike Cowley (Race Director), Charlotte Gann (Sponsorship Relations and Webmaster), Dennis McMillan (Technology Support), Andrew McBride (Logistics), Gale Bryant (Volunteers Coordinator), Heather Brazier (Finance), and Vern Burkhardt (Chair).

John Abel, Principal Race Officer, and his race committee again did an excellent job of running this international yacht race. Appreciation is also extended to Rosie Zurbrigg and Claire Patterson who provided administrative support, Shirley Hind who handled registration, Margaret Green for managing our SPOT units which were used by a number of other races as well as Swiftsure, Robert Johnson (RoJo) for Race Tracker technical support, Kirk Palmer for normalizing PHRF BC handicap ratings to PHRF NW, and Alec Matthews for design, programming, and support for the Swiftsure website. Leads instrumental to Swiftsure operations were John Edwards (Inshore Race Officer and Finish Line), Judie Abel (Finish Line), Gord Wilkinson (Scorekeeper), Keith Beange (Inspection Dock), Don Macleod (Race Communications), Blaine Juchau (Site Manager Clover Point), Brian Dodsworth (Dockmaster), Roger Bailey (Site Manager, Inshore Race finishing party), and Louise Alepin (Media Liaison).

L. Bruce Hedrick (Northwest Yachting Magazine Associate Publisher) provided a weather briefing to racers at the Skippers' Meeting, and RVYC member Dr. Richard Dewey, from the University of Victoria's Centre for Earth & Ocean Science, produced detailed tidal current charts extant during the race and provided a currents briefing to skippers.

Mike Turner, International Racing Judge, provided a seminar for racers about Racing Rules of Sailing. Many other volunteers should be mentioned, such as Michael Nusbaum and Daphne Goode who were the 'Voices of Swiftsure' at Clover Point during the start of the races, the many excellent photographers led by John Clarke, Brian Stilling (MV Leisure II for Inspection Dock), and John Powell (SV Satarie for the Inshore Finish Line),

The Royal Canadian Navy provided invaluable support by enabling Swiftsure to have the finish line officials located on Anson Crescent. MARPAC also provided HMCS Nanaimo for the start boat and rounding mark at Swiftsure Bank, and PCTV Wolfe 59 for the rounding mark at Neah Bay. Under the onsite command of Major Justin Olsen (OIC of the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre Victoria), the Royal Canadian Air Force, 442 Squadron provided a demonstration SAR recovery of the OSCAR Water-Rescue Training Dummy from the water off Clover Point using a Cormorant helicopter following the final start of Swiftsure.

One of the annual challenges for Swiftsure is to locate a vessel in Clallam Bay to serve as the rounding mark for the Juan de Fuca Race course. Member F. Allen Melvin provided MV Jo-Kepa V for this rounding mark.

Recognition is also given to the Canadian and U.S. Coast Guards for deploying their safety vessels in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre for providing Search and Rescue planning and support during the race, and to the Oak Bay, Victoria, and Sooke Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (Units 33, 35, and 37) for their safety at sea assistance. Also, appreciation is extended to South Island Marine Safety Unit, RCMP for their safety vessel at the starting area, and to Vessel Traffic Management Seattle and Marine Communication & Traffic Services (Tofino and Victoria) for their half hourly VHF broadcasts to the racing fleet of the locations of commercial traffic in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped put on the 2018 Swiftsure event.

Much appreciation is given to our prominent sponsors who also made Swiftsure 2018 possible.

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