

SWIFTSURE REPORT Past Commodore Vern Burkhardt, Chair

The 72nd running of the Swiftsure International Yacht Race occurred May 23rd to 25th, 2015. The gun for the first start, the Swiftsure Lightship Classic, was fired from HMCS Saskatoon at 0900 on Saturday, May 23rd. Good winds and smooth waters challenged the largest complement of racers in years.

In total 190 yachts competed in Swiftsure 2015: 11 in the Swiftsure Lightship Classic (132.8 nautical miles), 9 in the Hein Bank course (118.1 nautical miles), 71 in the Cape Flattery course (101.9 nautical miles), 44 in Juan de Fuca (78.7 nautical miles), and 55 in the Inshore course. By comparison in 2014 a total of 185 yachts competed, 135 in the Three Long Courses and 50 in the Swiftsure Inshore Classic.

	Entries	Finished
FOUR LONG COURSES		
Swiftsure Lightship Classic (PHRF)	11	11
Hein Bank (PHRF))	3	3
Hein Bank (IRC)	6	6
Cape Flattery Race for Multihulls	11	11
Cape Flattery Race, Light Class	33	33
Cape Flattery Race, Heavy Class	27	27
Juan de Fuca, Light Class	20	20
Juan de Fuca, Heavy Class	21	21
Juan de Fuca, Double Handed	3	3
TOTAL	135	135
INSHORE CLASSIC		
Flying Sails	46	46
Multihulls	2	2
No Flying Sails	7	6
TOTAL	55	54
TOTAL ALL COURSES		
	190	189

An additional 6 yachts in the Four Long Courses and 2 in the Swiftsure Inshore Classic which registered for Swiftsure but did not compete for various reasons.

There were 13 yachts from our Club competing in the Four Long Courses, and 27 in the Swiftsure Inshore Classic. Royal Victoria Yacht Club skippers and their crews who excelled in Swiftsure 2015 included:

Race	Skipper	Yacht	Result
Swiftsure Lightship Classic (PHRF)	CO Lieutenant Commander Jeff Kibble	HMCS Oriole	Finished within time limit
Hein Bank (IRC)	Stuart Dahlgren	Westerly	3 rd to Round ODAS Buoy 46088 on elapsed time, 5 th in race
Cape Flattery for Multihulls	Richard Ackrill	Dragonfly	Line Honours, 2 nd in race, 2 nd to Round Neah Bay mark on elapsed time
Cape Flattery, Light Class	Kirk Palmer	Light Scout	1 st in Division 2 of the Light Class, 2 nd among all divisions in the Light Class, 2 nd in Cape Flattery Race among all monohulls, and 1 st to Round Neah Bay mark on corrected time among all monohulls racing in the Cape Flattery Race both Light and Heavy Classes
	Dennis Hollingshead	Magic Carpet I	4 th in Division 3, 3 rd to Round Neah Bay mark on elapsed time in Division 3
Juan de Fuca, Light Class	Tom Hawker	California Express	4 th in Division 1 of the Light Class, 2 nd to Round Clallam Bay mark on elapsed time in Division 1 of the Light Class
Juan de Fuca, Heavy Class	James Avery	Oceano III	1 st to Round Clallam Bay Mark on elapsed time in Division 1 of the Heavy Class, 10 th in Division 1 of the Heavy Class
Inshore Flying Sails	Fraser McMillan	Swish	1 st overall among all Inshore Flying Sails divisions for the Clarke Cup, 1 st in Division 1
	Dunnery Best	Sheva	2 nd in Division 1
	Ron Jewula	Kairos	3 rd in Division 1
	Cleve Molsberry	Kali	2 nd in Division 2
	Heather Brazier	Bulletproof	3 rd in Division 2
	Robert Warren	Sugar Glider	1 st in Division 3
	Simon Walker	Peptide	2 nd in Division 3
	Mike Byrnes	Lifestyle	1 st in Division 4
	Rolf Schmidt	Tokolosh II	2 nd in Division 4
	Dennis Woodward	Zephyr	3 rd in Division 4
Inshore No Flying Sails	Don Thain	Windshear	1st in No Flying Sails
	Ron Smyth	Happiness	3 rd in No Flying Sails

A few highlights:

- Dragonfly, racing in the Cape Flattery Multihull Race and skippered by Richard Ackrill of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, was the first of all the boats to cross the finish line at 18:19:01. This was an elapsed time of 09:09:01, about 1^{3/4} hours

- faster than their elapsed time of 10:53:34 in Swiftsure 2014. Richard and the same crew he had with him in 2014 -- Pat McGarry, Nick Banks, Sandy Dick, Gord Irving, and Mark Thynes -- easily made last call at the bar at Swiftsure Centre!
- Thanks to the efforts of John Green, Swiftsure had the most number of multihull competitors, and for the first time they were given their own dedicated start.
 - During the Skippers' Meeting John Buchan was recognized with a bottle of Mount Gay Extra Old Rum for having done the most Swiftsure races. Last year Ron McKenzie was recognized for having participated in 40 Swiftsure races. This was Doug Fryer's 45th consecutive Swiftsure race but he was recognized for the most number of Swiftsures in 2013. Skippers are only eligible to win the bottle of rum once!
 - Racers enjoyed the bowl of soup donated by SYSCO at the Inspection Dock after many hours of racing.
 - After all the races had been started, a RCAF 442 Squadron Cormorant helicopter team put on a Search and Rescue demonstration over the water at Clover Point, with the Canadian Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue vessel standing by. The demonstration went off like clockwork, and the 'body' in the water was successfully rescued.
 - The big changes for Swiftsure 2015 seem to have been well received – a new racecourse – the Hein Bank Race – and a new venue for Swiftsure Centre in the Steamship Terminal. Many thanks to sponsors Steamship Grill & Bar, the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, and Spinnakers' Gastro Brewpub & Guesthouses for helping to make this change of venue for Swiftsure Centre.

Thank you to over 235 volunteers who helped put on the 2015 Swiftsure event. There were a lot of jobs to be done, and our volunteers rallied to the cause.

RVYC's 2015 Standing Committee for Swiftsure included Mike Cowley (Race Director), Charlotte Gann (Sponsorship Relations and Webmaster), Gary Davis (Media & Promotions), Dennis McMillan (Technology Support), Bobbi Campbell (Racer Relations Puget Sound), Bruce Campbell (Racer Relations Puget Sound), Russ Cozens (Logistics), Judie Abel (Volunteers Coordinator), Jonas Zolpys (Entertainment Coordinator), Heather Brazier (Finance), Bill Conconi (Safety Boats), Alan Barber (Trophies and Award Records), John Green (Multihulls & Executive Liaison), and Vern Burkhardt (Chair).

John Abel did a superb job as Principal Race Officer, and Mike Turner as Chief Judge. Special recognition is given to John Abel who ISAF appointed on November 11 as an International Race Officer and to Mike Turner who was appointed on the same date as an International Judge.

Appreciation is also extended to Debbie Palinkas, our Swiftsure Office Administrator, 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, Kirk Palmer for handicap ratings, Alec Matthews for design, programming, and support for the Swiftsure website, and Don Thain for safety advice. Key leads who pulled off miracles were Gord Wilkinson (Scorekeeper), Bill DiGuistini (Inspection Dock), Don Macleod (Racer Communications), Blaine Juchau (logistics Clover Point), Louise Smith (logistics Swiftsure Centre), Alex and Anne Wortmann (Dock master), Gerry Thompson (Yacht Host Program), David Trace (Inshore Race Officer and Finish Line), Tara Smith (Inshore Race finishing party), Barb Edwards (Concierge-Swiftsure Centre), and Dave Grant (Webmaster support). David Jones - Meteorologist from Environment Canada in

Vancouver who provided a weather briefing at the Skippers' meeting, RVYC member Dr. Richard Dewey with the U Vic's Centre for Earth & Ocean Science who produced detailed tidal current charts extant during the race and provided a currents briefing to skippers. So many other volunteers could be mentioned, such as Ralph Lapp and Heather Seaman who were the 'Voices of Swiftsure' at Clover Point during the start of the races, the many excellent photographers, Sue Pickerell of Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (safety planning), and Brian Stilling (MV Leisure II for Inspection Dock).

A special thanks is extended to Swiftsure's sponsors. All RVYC members are encouraged to patronize them to show our Club's appreciation for their support, which is key to Swiftsure's financial success.

Swiftsure's business sponsors were:

Canoe Cove's Marine Community	Odlum Brown Limited, Brad Dovey
Blackline Marine Inc.	Trotac Marine
Raven Marine Services and Raven	Steamship Grill & Bar
Offshore Yacht Shipping	Sperry
Navis Marine Insurance Brokers	Mount Gay Rum
Canoe Cove Marina	West Marine
Prince of Whales Whale Watching	Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort
Spinnakers Gastro Brewpub and Guesthouse	& Spa
Uk Sailmakers Northwest	IRIS The Visual Group with Maui
BC Ferries	Jim Sunglasses
Stathcona Hotel	Kate Cole Design

Swiftsure's media sponsors were:

Shaw TV South Vancouver Island	48 Degrees North Sailing Magazine
Times Colonist newspaper	Northwest Yachting Magazine
CHEK News	Good Old Boat Magazine
Pacific Yachting Magazine	

Swiftsure's community sponsors were:

Royal Canadian Navy
Greater Victoria Harbour Authority
Capital Regional District

In addition, Swiftsure received great support from numerous in-kind sponsors and silent auction donators, including:

Special T Group	Victoria Box and Paper
City of Victoria	DJ Daddy Mack
Arbutus RV and Marine Sales	Anchor Marine Electric
Coast Environmental	Shaw Cable
Ocean Navigator Magazine	SYSCO
Carmanah Technologies Corporation	Blackline Marine
Sperry since 1935	Canoe Cove Marina & Boatyard
IRIS The Visual Group & Maui Jim Sunglasses	Mount Gay Rum
Trotac Marine	Oak Bay Recreation
Cherry Point Estate Wines	BC Ferries
Harbour Air Seaplanes	Hotel Grand Pacific
Victoria Clipper	Reef Caribbean Restaurant
Pacific Yachting Magazine	Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites

Barb Edwards (RVYC member)
Starbucks Heritage (in Steamship Building)
Coast (RVYC member Tara Smith)
Ocean Pointe Resort & Spa
Belleville's Premium Quality Watering
Hole & Diner
Tom Harris Cellular

Heather Brazier (RVYC member)
Black Ball Ferry Line
Westport Marina Delta Victoria
Fairmont Empress Bengal Lounge
Aromassage Studios (RVYC
member Charlotte Gann)

Recognition is also given to the Canadian and U.S. Coast Guards for deploying their safety vessels in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, 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 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.

'Swiftsure...Always a Challenge'