



BLOCK ISLAND RACE WEEK (JUNE 21–25) – Part Two of Two: *The Races*

Day 1

“Somehow mother nature knows that a regatta is starting. So the great weather you have been having is probably going to change,” said the meteorologist for race week, Chris Bedford. The sailors and race committee awoke to a thick fog that had settled on the island and surrounding Block Island Sound. Monday looked like the best wind for the Round the Island Race, an 18 mile counter clockwise course. The first Round the Island race of the week was not the scenic course everyone looks forward to in the fog.



Day 2

The course was announced at 9:00, with a harbor start at 9:30, and the first boat over the start line at 11:00. There are 3 race circles and each boat is given an exact time and sequence to go over the start in a designated fleet. Fog lifted overnight but storm clouds began to form due to Tropical Depression Claudette, forcing boats to contend with 8-10 foot swells throughout the day.



Day 3

Mid point of race week a light breeze was expected so the course was shortened, but instead the wind shifted to a predominant sea breeze and continued to fill for a full day of racing with an abundance of competition.

(Our thanks to Briggs Whiteford for the information used in this article.)

Photo credits: Dean Surrett and Ned Phillips, Jr.

Day 4

A beautiful day for a lap around the Island, this time with stunning views and some of the best racing conditions in Round-the Island history.

The sunny skies, and southeasterly winds of 10-12 knots provided ideal conditions for the 158 boats.



OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the environmental quality of the Great Salt Pond, including its shorelines and wetlands, and to promote appropriate and productive uses of the Pond’s resources by residents, visitors and local businesses.

FUNDING: Individual contributions, membership dues, special events, program grants. IRS 501(c)3 non-profit. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please consider becoming a member of The Committee for the Great Salt Pond. For information and details, visit our website at cgspblockisland.org.