

For immediate release
26 August 2015

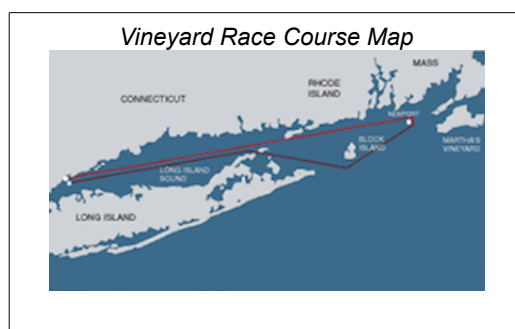


**Sailonline.org partners with The Stamford Yacht Club
and the Santa Cruz 52s 'Bombardino' and 'Magic'
to bring the virtual version of the 81st Vineyard Race
to armchair sailing navigation enthusiasts around the world.
Race start time: Friday 4th September 2015 at 1300 EDT (1700 UTC)**

Sailonline.org is pleased to announce that it is partnering with the Stamford Yacht Club to bring the 81st Vineyard Race right to your fingertips (or mouse!).

The virtual Vineyard Race on Sailonline will run at the same time as the real Race allowing armchair sailors to sail against the actual boats in the Race.

Originally created in the Naval Architecture Department of KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden - Sailonline.org today is probably the most realistic sailing navigation simulator game on the internet, providing a realistic, entertaining and educational platform for those who love the sea and sailing, wherever they may be around the globe.



As a strategy simulator for ocean navigation, Sailonline is free to play and yet challenges both the novice and the expert, letting you sail your boat over oceans around the globe easier than you can imagine. But, as in real life, in order to sail fast and to ultimately win races, it requires full dedication, extensive practice, knowledge and working skills. There is a full and complete manual on how to sail on Sailonline to guide you, and its community of SOLers (one who sails on Sailonline.org) are always willing to advise and offer assistance.

Luckily, too, there are autopilots installed in all boats so that you do not need to steer manually all the time but just as in reality, the more attention you pay to adjusting your course the better you will do. You are in full sight of the entire virtual fleet, hence, Sailonline lets you race the boats you otherwise would just see from a distance or not at all.

Also, once again for the Vineyard Race, Sailonline is using the polar of a Santa Cruz 52 and will race against the SC52s 'Bombardino' and 'Magic'. At the time of writing, 85 yachts had entered the race.

For the first time in a buddy-up with a major race, Sailonline will be using the high resolution WRF weather model. WRF is a state-of-the-art atmospheric modeling system that is applicable for many meteorological simulations.

When used in conjunction with a Sailonline virtual race, it introduces the local weather elements that can influence the outcome of a yacht race such as wind shadows produced by islands and katabatic winds coming off coastal mountain slopes. This all adds to the 'realism' of the simulation and increases the virtual navigator's challenge.



The virtual Vineyard Race on Sailonline.org will open for practice soon. Between now and then Sailonline has other races scheduled and everyone is invited to come and join in so that they will gain the most fun out of the virtual Vineyard Race 2015.

To race, armchair navigators should head to www.sailonline.org
It's all free.

About the Vineyard Race

In the USA, Labor Day weekend's Vineyard Race is a classic American yachting event: a 238-mile course stretching from Shippan Point, through the swirling currents of the Race or Plum Gut, past Block Island, and on to the light tower at the entrance to Buzzard's Bay, to return leaving Block Island to starboard en route to the finish in Stamford Harbor. Begun in 1932, it has attracted the finest sailors and fastest boats for over 80 years, and its intricacies and challenges bring them back time after time. Those who are successful nearly always credit local knowledge of these tricky waters and a good deal of luck.

The race will start on Friday 4th September at 1300 EDT (1700 UTC) off Stamford Harbor on Long Island Sound.

Get race updates from the Vineyard Race blog at: <https://vineyardrace.wordpress.com/>

Follow the Race's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/vineyardrace>

Find out about Stamford Yacht Club at: <http://www.stamfordyc.com/node/537>

More about the WRF weather model: <http://www.wrf-model.org/index.php>

Robert Neilson
for
Sailonline.org
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Further information: marketing@sailonline.org