



# Town Crier

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## Second Wave: Mariners Race Toward Island Shores

### Two Courses Offered to Bacardi Bayview-Mackinac Sailors This Week

By Karen Gould

The second wave of mariners will hit the shores of Mackinac Island as the 81st sailing of the

Bacardi Bayview Mackinac Race gets underway from Port Huron Saturday, July 23. The 32-foot sloop *Bermida*, winner

of the first Bayview race in 1925, though no longer sea worthy, will be on shore to inspire sailors as they cross the finish line near Mission Point Resort on the southeast corner of the Island.

Two-hundred sixty-seven

boats and approximately 3,000 sailors will begin leaving Port Huron at 11:30 a.m. from a starting line 4.5 nautical miles north of the Blue Water Bridge in Lake Huron on the American side of the shipping channel. The bridge links the United States to Canada over the St. Clair River.

The regatta offers mariners a choice of two Lake Huron courses en route to Mackinac. The original route, the Shore Course, is 235 statute miles or 204 nautical miles shadowing the Michigan shoreline, crossing Saginaw Bay, with Thunder Bay

Island, Middle Island, and Bois Blanc Island on the port side. Some 126 skippers will lead their crews along this route.

Introduced in 2000 and 49 miles longer, the Southampton course is a 290-mile (253 nautical miles) journey that offers a challenging, more tactical race, taking boats approximately five miles off Southampton, Ontario, along the eastern side of Lake Huron. Taking on the quest will be 141 yachting crews.

An awards ceremony for racers is planned at Mission Point

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A sea of racing yachts from the 2005 Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac rest in slips under the shadow of Fort Mackinac Tuesday, July 19. Many of the Chicago racers will return next week in the Bacardi Bayview Mackinac Challenge, which begins Saturday, July 23.

### Holua Is First To Cross Finish In Chicago Race

Retriever, Kutty's Ark Take Division Race Trophies

By Karen Gould

Light winds came to life Monday, July 18, to push Chicago racing sailboats up to Mackinac, but not before an early morning thunderstorm capsized the trimaran racer *Emma* just south of Gray's Reef in Lake Michigan. All three crew members from *Emma* were rescued and brought to the Island by the crew on board the chase boat for the Chicago CBS affiliate WBBM, which was filming the race and ended up filming the rescue as well.

The first yacht to cross the finish line beating the storm and all the other racers to the Island was *Holua*, a 70-foot Great Lakes 70 skippered by Chicago Yacht Club member Peter Thornton from Hinsdale, Illinois. The boat finished in 36 hours, 54 minutes, 23 seconds, but her corrected finish time, allowing for her handicap, was 42 hours, 28 minutes, 45 seconds, too much to make her the winner of either division race trophy.

Earning the Chicago Yacht Club's Race to Mackinac

Division race trophy was *Retriever*, a 52-foot Alden from Grand Rapids. Though finishing the race in 47 hours, 12 minutes, 2 seconds, the boat's corrected time of 41:15:11 gave her the edge.

Capturing the Mackinac Cup Division trophy was *Kutty's Ark*, a 36-foot Pearson from Oak Lawn, Illinois, with a finish time of 50:48:52 seconds and a corrected time of 40:29:56.

Corrected times, not elapsed times, set regatta placement, said Adrienne Lebatino, a spokesperson for the Chicago Yacht Club. Boats are given a handicap based on weight, length, modifications, and a number of other factors. A computer program computes the handicap, along with the boat's elapsed time from start to finish to calculate a corrected finish time.

The race had been predicted to be slow because of low winds that have plagued the Great Lakes region since the beginning of the month.

"Winds were light, but we

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## New Harry Potter Book Conjures Up Magical Excitement for Island Readers

By Jessica Delaney

Muggles and wizards alike need to beware as Pottermania hits the nation. With You-Know-Who on the loose, signs of romance hitting the Hogwarts school, and increasing danger throughout the world, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," the sixth installment in British author J.K. Rowling's popular series, promises more delights for Potter fans.

More than 6.9 million copies of the book were sold on its opening weekend throughout the nation. Bookstores remained open until midnight, fans dressed

up in Potter gear and threw parties, and eagerly counted down the minutes until midnight.

Not to be left out of the frenzy, Island Bookstore threw its own midnight Harry Potter party, complete with costumes, raffles, and, of course, the new book. Cake was provided, along with chocolate covered pretzels, juice, crossword puzzles, word searches, and tattoos to keep fans busy until the hour of midnight arrived.

Tamara Tomac, manager of



Miranda Newton (left) and Ainot Crees, employees at Island Bookstore, dressed in their finest wizard regalia to celebrate the midnight release of the sixth book in the Harry Potter series.

Island bookstore, had no doubt as to why people were so excited about the upcoming book.

"It's a good story," she said. "It's just an exciting, good story. It makes you want to keep reading. And that's the best thing about this phenomenon is that it has people reading, from kids to adults who haven't picked up a book in years."

Fans, meanwhile, weren't pondering the success of the series, but instead were biting nails and speculating on what

the book would hold as the clock slowly ticked down to the books' release.

"Rumors have been flying," said Lindsay Bauman, who is working at Benjamin's Kodak for the summer. "I personally think that Percy will come crawling back."

Her friend, Jennifer Flatt, who is spending the summer working at Shirt Tales, disagreed.

"I think the big thing will be that Hagrid's going to die," she speculated. "He seems to be becoming less of a main character, and that would be a way to get rid of him."

While those two were busy discussing their predictions, friends Roxanne Pettit of Mackinac Island and Lauren Burke of Grand Rapids were just glad they would finally be able to get their hands on a copy of the new book.

"I'm such a huge Harry Potter fan," said Ms. Pettit. "I've

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Early Monday morning from Windermere Point, at least 11 colorful spinnakers could be seen underneath the Mackinac Bridge. These children are waiting for their fathers sailing on *Ragged Edge* from Grand Rapids. From left, Katrina DeVries, James Boelkins, Maria DeVries, Jacob DeVries, and Margaret DeVries.