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SAINT-BARTH BUCKET 2005 - AND THE WINNER IS...

**FREEDOM
OF FLIGHT!**



LOCAL NEWS IN ENGLISH

Sailing A SPECTACULAR "BUCKET"

930 linear meters: that is the combined length of the 25 fabulous sailboats that participated last weekend in the 10th anniversary of the St. Barth Bucket. Organized by Melanie Smith, Hank Halsted, Timothy Laughridge, and Ian Craddock, in close collaboration with the Saint Barth Yacht Club, the municipality of Saint-Barthélemy, and the Port of Gustavia, this event was successful both on land and at sea. Activities for this 10th edition of the race got started on Thursday, March 31, aboard the *Mirabella V*, when the race committee, skippers and owners gathered on the world's largest sloop for the traditional pre-race briefing.

Friday, April 1 at 9:00am: Quai Général De Gaulle and Quai de la République were as busy as beehives. A few curious folks with digital cameras or video cameras pointed their lens at the incredible lineup of hulls and masts. The fleet included the J Class replica *Ranger*, *Mariella*, *Visione*, and *Rebecca*, some of the top contenders in the race. Sails were raised and trimmed, last minute adjustments made, and the fleet set sail in the direction of Corossol and Public, toward the starting

line for the first day's race: a tour around the island heading south toward Gouverneur. At 11:00am, under a brilliant sun and light winds that barely reached 15 knots, the committee boat sounded its fog horn to start the race. The staggered starting times were based on a handicap system in consideration of the size and speed of each boat. This first leg of the race, which included a few local sailors aboard some of the boats, was won by *Rebecca*, crossing the finish line at 2:30pm, followed closely by *Ranger* and *Visione*. The second leg of the regatta took place on Saturday, April 2 with a triangular Olympic course that ran between the little islands *Boulangier*, *Frégate*, *Bonhomme*, and *Fourchue*. The starting times, once again staggered, took place with spinnakers raised to winds of roughly 20 knots. The descent toward *Fourchue*, the last buoy of the day, was spectacular with boats side-by-side, spinnakers as full as possible. The winner of this second day was *Rogue*, who crossed the finish line just seven short seconds ahead of *Perseus*, battling to the last. Sunday, April 3, the third and last race of the Bucket



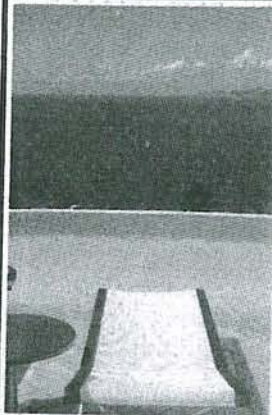
2005. Another beautiful sail around the island, this time in a clockwise direction, with the little islands of *Boulangier*, *Pelé*, les Grenadiers and *Roche Rouge* on the starboard side. The day got off to a bad start for *Boo Too*, with a torn spinnaker within the first few minutes of the race. The same was true for *Mariella*, but at the end of the race. A crew member aboard *Zingaro* fell overboard, but was quickly brought back to safety on the boat.

In the early evening, the awards ceremony was held on the Quai Général De Gaulle, with Mayor Bruno Magras among the presenters. All handicaps considered, the winner was *Freedom of Flight*, in its very first Bucket. In addition to various prizes (including the Medal of Honor of Saint Barth), *Freedom of Flight* will have its name engraved on the Bucket trophy - a bucket! The famous can of snails for the slowest boat

was presented to the crew of *Lady Lauren* this year. The organizers thanked the municipality of Saint-Barthélemy, the Port, the Saint Barth Yacht Club, all of the generous sponsors of the race, and all the participants who made this event such a huge success. To close this year's chapter, champagne corks were popping for a well-deserved toast to the great success of the 10th anniversary of the St. Barth Bucket.

FINAL RESULTS

- 1) *Freedom of Flight*, 2) *Metolius*, 3) *Sariyah*, 4) *Gitana S&S*, 5) *Victoria*, 6) *Avalon*, 7) tie: *Rébecca* and *Destination Fox Harb'r*, 9) *Sojana*, 10) *Scheherazade*, 11) *Wild Horses*, 12) tie: *Rogue* and *Mariella*, 14) *Tie Andromeda La Dea* and *Zingaro*, 16) tie: *Whisper* and *Hyperion*, 18) tie: *La Numero Uno* and *Ranger*, 20) *Boo Too*, 21) *Visione*, 22) *Gitana PN*, 23) *Infatuation*, 24) *Lady Lauren* (*Perseus* did not finish the race).



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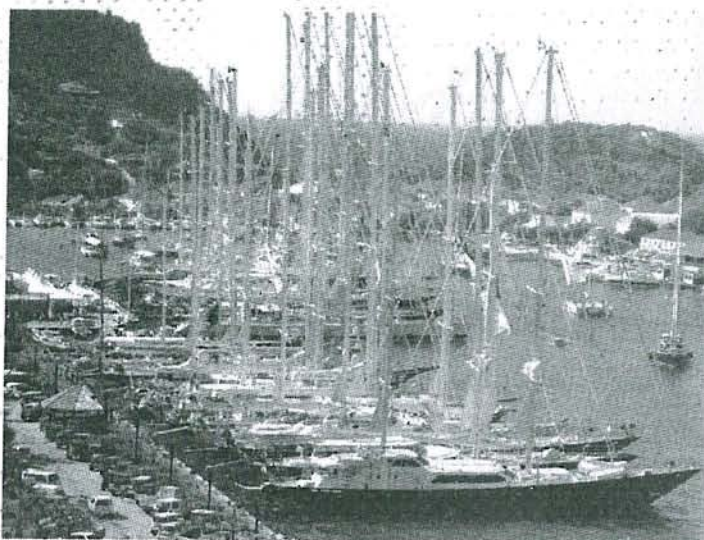
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BIG BUCKETS IN SAINT BARTH

By Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

They call it the Bucket. The St. Barth Bucket. A fabulous regatta for sailboats over 100' in length. Big "buckets." The idea for the race took seed in Nantucket where the owners and skippers of these big boats raced every summer in the Nantucket Bucket. That summer race has since moved to Newport, R.I. in July, with a spring version that celebrated its 10th



anniversary in St. Barth last weekend (April 1-3). "This was the biggest Bucket yet," said race committee member Ian Craddock at the opening night party on the dock, while Francis Delage and his staff from La Route des Boucaniers catered a cocktail party. And big it was, with 26 of the most exquisite sailing vessels lined up at the dock in Gustavia, and two even bigger boats, Athena and Mirabella V out in the harbor. Athena anchored at the commercial dock in Public for an owner's party on Saturday night, giving people a change to see the world's largest three-masted schooner. After the first day's race around the island, there was a boat-hopping party on Friday night. Owners, skippers, crew, and guests went from boat to boat sipping champagne, nibbling on oysters and hors d'œuvres. Sparkling blue bracelets had been issued as a party-hoppers pass, and some people wore them sportingly on their ankles. The mayor of

St. Barth, Bruno Magras, was there, with Marc Del Guidice (skipper of Mischievous, a 65' ketch too small to race in the Bucket) taking him from boat to boat to meet the players. There were quite a few locals at that party, mingling their French with the primarily English-speaking crowd that came for the race from the United States, England, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. In spite of the fact that the harbor master's office is under major construction at the moment, the main dock was decorated with peaked white tents, and theatrical lighting fixtures projected the logo of the race—a pineapple in a bucket, of course—onto the white fabric. Projection screens were set up on either side of the stage and Cedric and Nicole, the island's videographers, put on a show with images from past races, and finally on Sunday night, after the awards ceremony, images from this year. Tim Wright, a photo-

grapher who specializes in shooting sailing races (he hangs from the side of a zodiac in a harness to get some amazing shots) put on a slide show at the closing night party, while waiters

and waitresses from Maya's To Go zipped through the crowd with trays of champagne and canapés. The local band, RMI, played late into the evening but by that time most of the yachting crowd had gone to dinner, were partying on their own boats, or were too exhausted after three days of racing under the hot tropical sun to do much of anything. But they all promise to be back next year, especially Samuel T.

Byrne, the owner of Freedom of Flight. After all, this was his first visit to St. Barth and he won the Bucket. How much better can it get?

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Saint-Barth Bucket 2005



Crew member at the winch



Destination, Fox Harbr!



Smily Crew on AVALON



Famous Naval Architect Ron Holland accepting the "Spirit of the Bucket" award won by long time Bucket participant, Tom Taylor owner of AVALON who had to depart SBH before the "Remise des Prix".



Ant the winners are: Crew on FREEDOM!



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