



PRESENTED BY



THE BITTER END YACHT CLUB PRO AM REGATTA

Picture yourself teamed with Serena Williams or Roger Federer in the doubles final at the U.S. Open. Few, if any, sporting events in the world offer the fan an opportunity to participate at such lofty levels. But the Bitter End Pro Am Regatta is different from any sporting event or regatta on earth. A world-class sailing event with 29 years of history, the Pro Am has matched up countless amateur and first time sailors with America's Cup skippers, Olympic Medalists, Around the World Race Winners, and World Champions. Due to its uniqueness, the Pro Am has been featured in the New York Times, the Financial Times, Sports Illustrated, Sail, Fortune Small Business, on the Fine Living Network and countless other travel, lifestyle, and sailing publications.

And the match-ups are for more than just a friendly daysail. For the serious sailors in the group, it's like a "Fantasy Camp." For the non-sailors, it's a chance to learn a new sport right at the top (imagine learning to play golf from Jason Day). Previous sailing experience and athleticism are not necessary—desire and adaptability are. Experience the thrill of victory or the grace in defeat. However, the Pro Am is not just about racing – it is also about fun. During your free time you can snorkel, windsurf, relax on the beach, or swim in the pool. Try scuba diving or kiteboarding. An excursion to Anegada or Jost Van Dyke is scheduled for Wednesday, the layday, which is devoted to non-sailing. Join in, or just kick back. In the evening, join our skippers and their crews for cocktail parties, theme dinners, and other social functions. The week is finished off with a rousing awards banquet, highlighted by prizes for the top teams, and great gifts for the rest of the group.

In 1987 (the first year), the event was sailed in Lasers (fleet racing) and J-24s (match racing). From 1988 to 1998, larger Freedom 30s provided the platform. And the fleet race (for seedings) and match race formats were fine tuned. In 1999 we brought in the "Legends of Sailing" to triple race (Paul Elvstrom's creative race format). For 2003 and 2004, the Legends triple raced Freedoms, and Juniors triple raced in our fleet of Hunter 216s. In 2010, we returned to the successful fleet/match racing format, in IC-24s. In 2014 and 2015, we threw in "exhibition team racing."

People often ask how the Pro Am came to be. The following is an excerpt from BEYC Owner Richard Hokin's preamble to the 25th Anniversary Pro Am: "Shortly after we acquired Bitter End in the early 1970s, I proposed that Bitter End sponsor an annual race from St. Thomas to Gorda Sound. This event resulted in a robust turnout of BVI and USVI sailors, who seemed to be motivated to sail upwind to Gorda Sound by the prospect of a raucous party and open bar in the Clubhouse. This was great fun for the local sailing community but did little to broadcast the message that the BVI, and Gorda Sound in particular, was a great venue not only for leisurely cruising but also for competitive sailing. Back in those days the combination of 100+ thirsty sailors and an open bar was a financial disaster for a resort with a mere handful of rooms.

By the mid 1980s, the resort had added a number of Beachfront cottages to the original Hillside, expanded its waterfront infrastructure and was in the process of integrating the neighboring resort, Tradewinds, into its footprint. All this made Bitter End a much more compelling destination for resort guests, and expanded our opportunities to utilize the potential of Gorda Sound as a first-rate venue for competitive sailing. Meanwhile, although the St. Thomas to Gorda Sound event had faded away, I had become much more deeply involved in serious yacht racing. For about ten years, beginning in the mid- 1970s, I was heavily into hardcore offshore sailboat racing starting with a series of five boats called Love Machine and winding down with Cosmic Warlord, an Express 37 that continues to spend her golden years on North Sound. The success of this endeavor came from having a great crew, from bowmen to pitmen to helmsmen. Among the central characters were sailing rock stars like Tom Whidden and Peter Isler, backed up by many great, albeit lower profile sailors. One of the stalwarts of our crew, the late Steve Surprise a.k.a. Roundman, later became a BVI icon.



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF WORLD CLASS SAILING

The Bitter End Pro Am evolved out of my obsession with sailboat racing and the addition of John Glynn to BEYC's crew. My dad had met John at the resort. At that time, John was an editor at Yacht Racing magazine who had favorably mentioned Bitter End in print. That John "got" what it was all about warranted immediate elevation to Myron's A-list and a job offer. John brought with him not only great enthusiasm for boats, sailing and the accompanying lifestyle but also a great network amongst the sailboat racing community. Kicking around the idea of a new competitive sailing event at the resort made us realize that involving the resort's rank and file guests needed to be the centerpiece of anything we came up with; and that's how the idea of a Pro Am format was born. The other key decision would be how to fit the event into the annual schedule so that we could attract both pro and amateur sailors and also raise Bitter End's profile in the competitive sailing community.

The autumnal equinox seemed to be the critical point in the scheduling decision. The month or so following it had two important features: the wind-down of the North American sailing and regatta season; and the emergence of the Caribbean from the annual torpor and unsettled weather that bracket the equinox, bringing a fresh new season and revitalized breezes to the BVI. So, what could be a better time to hold the event than a time when North American sailors of all stripes were yearning for anything that could prolong the sailing season and a venue that was offering its own version of spring about six months ahead of the temperate climate zones?

Perhaps the most significant factor was John's genius not only in recruiting the pros but also in convincing a bunch of ruthless, bloodthirsty and intensely focused hardcore competitors that win or lose this was going to be a fun event for all involved, including them. That has become the regatta's trademark. It's hard to imagine an America's Cup skipper, tactician or designer tolerating a bunch of hackers for crew but they do and usually with a smile. The proof: pros and amateurs keep coming back for more.

Nothing characterizes the spirit of Bitter End's Pro Am more than something I witnessed one year when Buddy Melges was among our pro skippers. During one race a member of Buddy's crew failed to duck during a jibe and ended up with a nasty deep gash across his forehead. Buddy's crewmember was quickly transported to the Virgin Gorda clinic, where micro suturing was not an option. The injured crewmember made it back to BEYC just in time for the post-race cocktail party with about six inches of shoelace-like stitches; and he couldn't have been more ecstatic about his prospects for a Frankenstein-style scar across his forehead. "I can't wait," he said, "to tell the guys at my yacht club bar that I got this sailing with Buddy Melges."

BEYC PRO AM REGATTA HONOR ROLL

1987 · Scott MacLeod
1988 · Ken Read
1989 · Ken Read
1990 · Jim Brady
1991 · Ed Baird
1992 · Paul Cayard
1993 · Peter Holmberg
1994 · Ed Baird
1995 · Russell Coutts
1996 · Russell Coutts
1997 · Peter Holmberg
1998 · Paul Cayard
1999 · Butch Ulmer
2000 · Peter Holmberg/Rod Johnstone
2001 · Ed Baird/Tom Leweck

2002 · Andy Burdick/Butch Ulmer
2003 · Russell Coutts/Keith Musto
2004 · Ed Baird/Tom Lewick
2005 · Andy Burdick/Butch Ulmer
2006 · Paul Cayard/Keith Musto
2007 · Ed Baird/Keith Musto
2008 · Ed Baird/Keith Musto
2009 · Ken Read
2010 · Peter Holmberg
2011 · Ed Baird
2012 · Taylor Canfield
2013 · Alec Anderson
2014 · Anthony Kotoun
2015 · Taylor Canfield





2016 PRO AM REGATTA & SCUTTLEBUTT SAILING CLUB CHAMPS

PRESENTED BY



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22ND, 2016

5:30 pm - BVI Airways Pro-Am Welcome Cruise aboard M/V Corinthian

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23RD, 2016

9:30 am - Skippers meeting for Gill Scuttlebutt Challenge Prelims (Lasers & Hobies) at Sand Palace

10:00 am/2:00 pm - Harbor Start for Gill Scuttlebutt Challenge Prelims (Lasers & Hobies)

12:30 pm - Clubhouse or Crawl Pub lunch

5:00 pm - 2nd Annual Spiked Seltzer Pro Am Beach Volleyball Match, Staff vs. Guests.

MONDAY OCTOBER 24TH, 2016

9:00 am - Skipper & Crew Assembly for Sunsail Defiance Day Regatta at Pub (boats on QD Docks)

9:50 am - First Warning Signal, 10:00 am start

12-2:00 pm Lunch aboard the M/V Corinthian, Snorkel Shuttle Available

1:50 pm - Warning signal for return race, 2:00 pm start

4:30 pm - Mount Gay Rum Defiance Day Awards Party at the Pub

6:30 pm - Guest Cocktail Party on the Almond Walk/Windward Mark; Clubhouse Dinner

TUESDAY OCTOBER 25TH, 2016

9:00 am - RailRiders Skipper/Crew Assembly for Pro Am IC 24 racing at the Almond Walk

10:00 am - Racing Begins (on the water)

12:00 pm - Lunch at Clubhouse (guests at leisure)

2:00 pm - Skippers/Crew Assembly for Pro AM IC24 racing at the Almond Walk

5:00 pm - The Better Chip "State of the Sport" Forum at the Pub

6:30 pm - West Indian BBQ on the Almond Walk Beach

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26TH, 2016

9:30 am - Trip departs for Highland Spring Jost Van Dyke Excursion

10:00 am - Super Snorkel Outing

2:00 pm - Beer Can Racing

5:00 pm - Spiked Seltzer "Spike Ball" Tournament on Beach near Windward Mark

7:00 pm - An "Absolut Fun" Evening at the Pool & Dinner at West Deck

THURSDAY OCTOBER 27TH, 2016

9:30 am - Skipper & Crew Assembly for Pro-Am IC24 Team Racing at Almond Walk

10:00 am - Racing Begins (on the water)

12:00 pm - BBQ lunch on the Almond Walk

2:00 pm - Skippers' Meeting for Gill Scuttlebutt Finals at Sand Palace

5:00 pm - Mount Gay Happy Hour and Gill Scuttlebutt Awards Party at the Pub

6:30 pm - Dinner at Leisure at Clubhouse (reservations required) and Crawl Pub

FRIDAY OCTOBER 28TH, 2016

9:30 am - RailRiders Skipper & Crew Assembly for Pro Am IC24 Match Racing at Almond Walk

12:00 pm - Clubhouse lunch

2:00 pm - Skippers and Crew Assembly for Pro Am IC24 Match Racing at Almond Walk

6:00 pm - Pre-Dinner Cocktails at Windward Mark

7:00 pm - BVI Airways Pro Am Final Awards Dinner at Clubhouse

SIGN UP AT WATERSPORTS FOR:

The Defiance Day Regatta, Gill Scuttlebutt Regatta, Pro-Am Regatta, and to don't forget to make your reservations for dinner daily at the Clubhouse Podium by lunchtime.

Schedule subject to minor changes. Check back often!

BITTER END YACHT CLUB & SUNSAIL CHARTERS
PRESENT
THE 22ND ANNUAL DEFIANCE DAY REGATTA
&
THE 14TH ANNUAL SCUTTLEBUTT OFFSHORE CHAMPS
VIRGIN GORDA, BVI | OCTOBER 24, 2016

Named for Sir Francis Drake's attack flagship, *Defiance*, this one-day regatta commemorates Drake and Sir John Hawkins' visit to North Sound in 1595. Bitter End was purported to be the last official landfall for both famous British naval heroes. Bitter End Yacht Club and Sunsail commemorate this famous event in BVI history with their annual race, which is open to charterboats (mono and multihull) and local racing and cruising boats.

10 am Spring Bay Sprint (see sailing instructions)

2 pm North Sound Shuffle (see sailing instructions)

A race to, and a race back from the Baths, open to charter and private boats over 20 feet, including much of the Bitter End's fleet. JJ Fetter, Taylor Canfield, Anthony Kotoun, Dave Ullman as well as other famous sailors will be racing (IC--24s and Sunsail charter cats, etc.). The break between races will allow time for snorkeling, beachcombing, and for a BBQ lunch afloat at the Baths. Resort guests sign up at the Watersports Desk.

5pm

Mount Gay Rum Cocktails and Awards Party at the Crawl Pub

*Visiting charter sailors are invited to stay to view the 2016 Pro Am Regatta
October 25-28th featuring legendary sailors and industry giants.*





2016 OFFICIALS LIST

Regatta & RC Chairman

John Glynn

Chief Umpire

Bill Simon

BITTER END YACHT CLUB CREW

Director of Operations

Matthew Siegel

Resort Hospitality Manager

Mary Jo Ryan

Watersports Manager (and crew CZAR)

Jerome Rand

Crew Rotation/Spectator Boat

Captain Kinto & Captain Kim

BITTER END YACHT CLUB PRO AM REGATTA NOTICE OF RACE

1. The Bitter End Yacht Club (BEYC) is the organizing authority (OA).
2. The regatta will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing, the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.
3. The boats will be IC-24s, provided by the BEYC.
4. Only skippers invited by the BEYC are eligible to participate. A maximum of eight skippers will be invited. Each skipper may select one crew member daily. Other crew members will be resort guests and select staff (as needed), assigned daily.
5. Skippers shall register on Monday evening, October 24, unless excused by the OA.
6. The sailing instructions will be available at registration.
7. A skippers' meeting (mandatory for skippers, unless excused by the OA) will be held at 0900 on Tuesday, October 27, at the Almond Walk. All regatta participants are invited to attend.
8. The format will be fleet racing, with umpiring. Up to 12 fleet races will be sailed. A match race semi finals, consolation & finals will also be sailed, best 2 of 3 races.
9. Pro Am Racing is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, Thursday October 27, and Friday October 28. Layday activities are planned for Wednesday, October 26th.
10. Courses will be windward/leeward with up to three laps.
11. Prizes will be awarded to the top three skippers and crew. Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the OA.



ANTHONY KOTOUN

Anthony Kotoun is a past Pro Am Champion! He has amassed an impressive body of work over the last 10-15 years, both as skipper, and as tactician, including 11 National, North American and World Championships. He has the J-24 trifecta (Worlds, NAs, and Midwinters) under his belt. He has also won the Melges 24 Gold Cup, and has a Gold Medal in the Central American/Caribbean Games in the Laser class. More recently, he is the 2015 US Moth National Champ (a repeat performance), making him an expert on foiling! He has served match race greats Ed Baird & Peter Holmberg as tactician.

JJ FETTER

One remarkable aspect of JJ Fetter's Hall of Fame success is the variety of boats and racing formats in which she has prevailed. She did well in Sabots at age seven. At Yale, she was a college all-American. She's won the women's keelboat championship; she won her class skippering an 48-footer at Key West Race Week; she was tactician and starting helmsperson on the 1995 America's Cup contender, Mighty Mary; and in the 470 she won the World Championships (1991), and bronze (1992) and silver (2000) Olympic medals. Along the way she was voted Rolex Yachtswoman of the Year a record four times.



DAVE PERRY

Dave Perry is a Pro Am veteran who needs little introduction. He's been actively working for the sport of sailing as author, competitor, and leader since 1977. He has led hundreds of US SAILING & Int'l instructional seminars and directed US Olympic Yachting Committee Development Clinics. In 1992 he was voted into the Sailing World Hall of Fame. In 1995 he became the first recipient of US SAILING's Captain Joe Prosser Award for exceptional contribution to sailing education. He has served as the Rules Advisor to the U.S. Olympic Team and coached the US Sailing Team Alphagraphics women's match race team.

DAVE ULLMAN

A 2016 inductee into the Sailing Hall of Fame perennial and crowd favorite, Dave Ullman, returns to the ProAm Regatta this year for his 7th time. Dave was named Rolex Yachtsman of the Year in 1996, was nominated again for 2007, and is a three-time 470 World Champ, the 2007 Melges 24 World Champ, a five-time Lipton Cup Champ, a ten-time Lido 14 National Champ, and a National Champ in the Snipe, Thistle, and Coronado 15 classes. He's a former US Olympic Sailing Team Coach and US Sailing Champs winner.





TAYLOR CANFIELD

Two-time past Pro Am champ (current defending champ) Taylor Canfield was considered by many to be the future of match racing in North America - well, the future is here. He grew up in nearby St. Thomas, USVI, and currently resides "Stateside." Taylor is among the top ranked match racers in the world (and has been ranked #1 in recent years). After dominating the monohull match race circuit, he and his US One Team have now moved on to the M32 multihull arena where they are lighting it up! Match racing in multihulls, anyone? He's also a former 3-time College All American, and Etchells World champ.

ED BAIRD

Ed Baird was at the very first Pro Am Regatta, and now he's joining us at the 30th. A lot has happened in between. He's a two-time America's Cup Winner (1995, 2007), boasts seven Pro Am titles (the most of any skipper), and is a past Laser and J24 World Champion. More recently he is dominating the TP52 circuit in Europe, and is the reigning World Champion. He will be entering the sailing Hall of Fame this year.



STEVE BENJAMIN

The only first-time participant at this year's Pro Am, Steve Benjamin was US Sailing's 2015 Rolex Yachtsmen of the Year on the heels of winning 11 major regattas, including the Etchells North Americans, and a variety of major distance races aboard his raceboat, Spookie. A World, National, and North American champion in everything from Fireballs to 505s to 470s, "Benj" is a past All American and College Sailor of the Year (Yale), and Olympic Silver Medalist (470s).

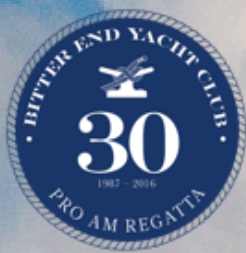
30 YEARS OF PRO AM REGATTA FUN FACTS

- The first Pro Am was also the first match racing event to use "on the water umpires" that were not based on the race boats themselves. This has been the standard in match racing ever since.
- Ed Baird was at the very first Pro Am (finished third), and with seven wins in 29 years, he has the most overall wins in Pro Am history. He returns in 2016 to try to win the 30th...
- Supermodels who have raced in the Pro Am: Heidi Klum, as part of a Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition photoshoot
- Number of Pro Am races cancelled or postponed due to lack of wind: 0 (of almost 500 races run)
- Number of Pro Am races shortened due to lack of wind: 3 (of almost 500 races run)
- Estimated number of "AM" guests who have attended/participated in 29 years: 900
- Pro Skippers who have participated: 51
- Number of Mount Gay Red Hats given in 29 years: 1600 (a lot of the above 900 AM guests repeat from year to year).
- Official Photographer of the 1st Annual Pro Am Regatta: Sharon Green (coming to shoot the 30th).



MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS WHO MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!





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