## REGATTA NEWS

## Grenada National Sailing Academy Celebrates Results

In November 2010, students of the Grenada National Sailing Academy celebrated the last day of their eight-week course with a fun sail around Grand Anse and a tro-phy celebration. The 12 sailors attended the Academy's Optimist dinghy sailing

course for three months and raced every week for two months. Founder and instructor Nick Walters is proud of the group's progress: "My aim has always been to provide great teaching and for the kids to enjoy themselves in the process. There is no reason why children with ambition cannot get through to Olympic level. The yachting community has proved supportive of what we are doing, and with continued support, Grenada can show the rest of the world that aoing, and with continued support, Grenada can show the rest of the world that there is much talent here. Budgert, drenada can show the resnada Salling Association have continued to be great supporters of youth sailing in Grenada." Sailing is open to all children in Grenada aged eight and up, with scholarships available for those unable to pay tuition fees but keen to succeed. For more information call Nick on (473) 420-9411.

St. Barth's One-Design Cata Cup Grows

Stéphane Legendre reports: F18 beach cats had some serious fun racing at St. Barth's from November 19th through 21st.



The event, which attracted 14 teams in 2008 and 35 in 2009, saw 45 teams coming this year from Belgium, Finland, France, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA, and also from Caribbean islands such as Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, Martinique and

and also from Caribbean islands such as Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, Marinique and of course St. Barth's. F18 world champions Olivier Backés (2010), Mischa Heemskerk (2007) and Emmanuel Boulogne (2003) were present. Initially ideal conditions of 15-knot winds and sunshine turned into gusty conditions of more than 25 knots gusting to 30, which led the organizers to cancel the race to Pinel Island off St. Martin on the last day of the competition.

The US teams were remarkable in all conditions; their race tactics and maneuver-ing were just perfect and impressed all the specialists on board the press boats. John Casey (an Extreme 40 specialist) and Dalton Tebo finished first, and Robbie Daniel and Gary Chu came second. The French team of Christopher Jonsson and Jean Christophe Mourniac took third place, very surprised to finish so well in their first

Apart from what was happening on the water, the convivality and participations of this high-level competition. Apart from what was happening on the water, the convivality and parties in the evenings were what all competitors and friends enjoyed most. Things were well

organized at Saint Jean's Nikki Beach restaurant. The organizers hope to see more competitors from the Caribbean islands for the fourth edition of this wonderful competition later this year. For more information visit www.stbarthcatacup.com

Smidge Takes Top Honors in Caribbean 1500 Rally Waiting for late season Hurricane Tomas and a succession of lows to pass before leaving, the 21st Anniversary Caribbean 1500 fleet of 75 boats experienced strong reaving, the 21st Anniversary Caribbean 1500 tiere of 75 boars experienced strong northwest winds and northerly swells in its annual trek from the US East Coast to the Caribbean. *Smidge*, a Hallberg Rassey 43 owned by the Benbow family from Pennsylvania, took Overall Handicap Honors. The Caribbean 1500 Rally, managed by the Cruising Rally Association, left Hampton, Virginia for Tortola on November 8th, 2010 after a week of preparatory

briefings, safety inspections and social events. This year, the participants had a choice of destinations: Marsh Harbor in the Abacos, or Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. The Bahamas Class, made up of 11 boats, left a week earlier. The fleet sailed

Islands. The Bahamas Class, made up of 11 boats, left a week earlier. The fleef sailed in two divisions, Cruising Class or Rally Class. The latter was divided into six handicap classes, five in the Tortola-bound fleet and one for the Bahamas-bound group. *Smidge* skipper Maury Benbow said, "This was the first extended ocean passage for *Smidge* and we were extremely pleased with her performance. Crossing the Gulf Stream in a 25- to 30-knot north wind was never threatening. Our crew gelled into a tremendous team. When conditions were at their toughest, they cracked jokes and hot meals appeared from the galley. They pushed the boat speed day and night. He adds, "Our thoughts are with friends and family or Laura Zekoll, who did not sur-vive the capsize of a liferaft following her vessel's grounding while attempting to enter a cut in the Bahamas." The owners of the Jeanneau 46DS on which Laura was sailing had made a decision to leave the fleet and divert to the Bahamas. solling had made a decision to leave the fleet and divert to the Bahamas. Steve Black, Founder of the Rally added, "Maury's comment about Laura echoes the feel-ings of the entire fleet and staff of the Caribbean 1500."

All BVI-bound ralliers received cold champagne and a warm welcome at Nanny Cay Resort and Marina in Tortola, where the BVI Tourist Board and the Roadtown

Wholesale hosted nightly parties for the sailors. A return rally, the Atlantic Cup, is planned to start on May 1st, leaving from Nanny Cay Resort & Marina and finishing in Bermuda. For more information visit www.carib1500.com

## 5th ARC Flotilla Gains Full Support of St. Lucia Community

Christy Recall reports: Excitement was in the air in St. Lucia on November 21st, 2010 time for the 5th Annual ARC Flotilla, a celebration of the official start of the 25th edition of the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers. As yachts left Las Palmas de Gran Canaria bound for \$1. Lucia, the local Lucian vessels sailed from Castries Harbour bound for the IGY Rodney Bay Marina, symbolizing the actual Las Palmas start. As customary, the cannons were fired from day-sail cat Mango Tango at 1000 hours sharp

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