



Strong Fleet Builds for 62nd Annual Wirth M. Munroe Ocean Race to Palm Beach on December 7th

New Two-Course Format Attracts Broad Spectrum of Entrants, Including Grand-Prix Stars

ENTRY DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 5TH

PALM BEACH, FL – November 26, 2018 – A strong and diverse fleet of boats from across the U.S. and ranging from grand prix machines to racer-cruisers to multihulls are entered in the Sailfish Club of Florida's 62nd annual Wirth M. Munroe Ocean Race to Palm Beach on Friday, December 7.

Among the grand prix entries are well-known heavy hitters, including U.S. America's Cup syndicate (AMERICAN MAGIC) co-head Hap Fauth's new Botin Maxi 72 BELLA MENTE; Steve Benjamin's IRC 52 SPOOKIE; Dave and Peter Askew's Volvo 70 WIZARD; George Collins' Tripp 62 CHESSIE RACING; and Austin and Gwen Fragomen's Botin 44 INTERLODGE IV, to name a few. The entries represent crews from California, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Texas.

All eyes will be on Jason Carroll's MOD 70 trimaran, ARGO, from the Larchmont (N.Y.) Yacht Club, the odds-on favorite to collect line honors and break the course record for elapsed time. ARGO has been smashing records, including this year's Vineyard Race, where the boat completed the 238-mile course in under 15 hours, recording an average speed of almost 16 knots and easily beating the elapsed time record.

This year's Wirth Munroe race will see the introduction of a two-course format – a 40-mile "Sprint" course that starts off Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, and the 60-mile "Classic," which starts off Government Cut in Miami. Both courses finish off the Palm Beach Inlet.

The deadline to enter the race is Wednesday, December 5th. To view the NOR and register for the 2018 Race, click [HERE](#).

“We are extremely pleased with the make-up of this year’s entry list,” said Wirth Munroe Event Chair Tom Bowler of the Sailfish Club. “Registrations have been both early and varied, with a significant grand prix component as well as a noteworthy number of new entrants about to experience the Wirth Munroe for the first time.

“It’s particularly nice to see continued strength in our foundational racer-cruiser entries,” he added. “The fact we’ve again expanded our ultra-high-end grand prix rock stars while continuing to appeal to our dedicated Florida-based local skippers is great to see. Needless to say, having the multi-hulls back on the race course is great.”

Mr. Bowler said there is strong representation in four of the five classes offered, and there are indications the fifth – ECRCA – may fill in by the registration cut-off deadline next week.

All crews will be welcome at the Sailfish Club’s legendary Rum Punch reception, buffet dinner and awards ceremony.

The Wirth Munroe Classic Course will be scored as part of the SORC's "Islands in the Stream" series, which includes the Miami-Nassau Race, the Lauderdale-Key West Race, the Miami-Havana Race and the Pineapple Cup from Miami to Montego Bay. The Sprint Course will not be scored as part of the series.

For decades the Wirth M. Munroe Ocean Race started in Miami, but it was shortened to a single Fort Lauderdale-Palm Beach course several years ago to encourage participation. Two years ago, as a tribute to the race’s 60th anniversary, organizers returned to the longer course starting in Miami. Interest in both courses prompted organizers to offer the two-course format for 2018.

The Organizing Authority for the race consists of The Sailfish Club of Florida in partnership with the Storm Trysail Club and with the support of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club. The SORC, the Storm Trysail Club and the Sailfish Club of Florida will oversee race management.

Please enter the race by signing up online at www.YachtScoring.com. For more information, please contact Sarah Gay at (561) 844-0206 or e-mail sarahgay@sailfishclub.com