

The 2004



And they're off! Flash, far left, was first across the start line.

Marc "Cookie" Jorgensen preparing a meal onboard Jam.

This year marked the 19th running of the 2,308-mile Vic-Maui International Yacht Race. This year's race, sponsored by IBM, saw a fleet of 19 racers start off Victoria on June 23. The fleet sailed out of Juan de Fuca Strait in a perfect 15-knot westerly. On day two, the winds held as the fleet was heading south along the Washington-Oregon coast.

The strategy for the Vic-Maui race is fairly simple. In most years, a broad area of high pressure (light airs) sits right in the middle of the shortest (great circle) route to Hawaii. Tactics are based on trying to sail the shortest distance while staying in the best winds. If you get too close to the high, you'll be stuck in light airs. If you go too far south, you'll have

more wind, but be sailing farther. A good navigator and weather strategist is almost as important as having a fast boat.

This year, the high was farther east and south than usual. This meant the boats had to sail a farther distance to skirt it. Racers were blessed with ideal winds for most of the race. Other than a

few days of light airs, the race was sailed in winds of between about 15 and 25 knots (with higher gusts).

After the first week, the winds clocked enough for the spinnakers to come out and stay out, in most cases right until the finish.

Right from Race Rocks, the fleet was lead by three Division 1 boats: *Flash*

Joe Lovejoy reads a letter from his bunk onboard Voodoo Child.

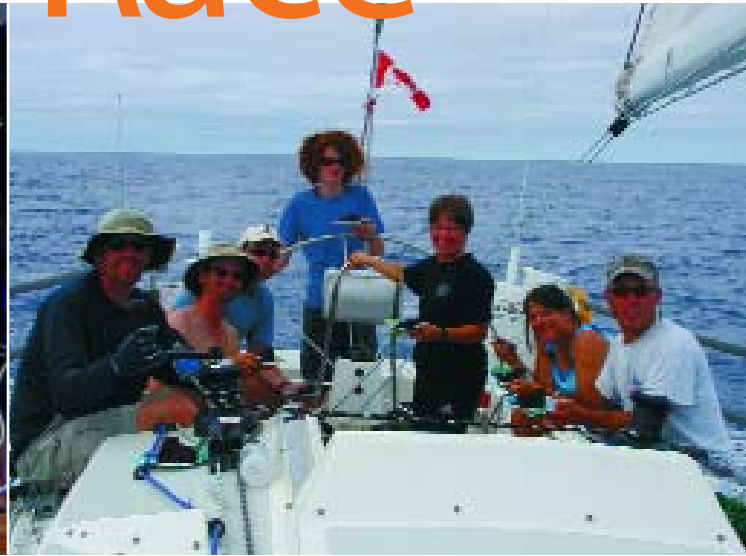
Paul Terry at the wheel with Dwight Jefferson aboard Flash.



Vic-Maui Race



Vern Burkhardt (front) and Rob Tape at the nav station onboard Pointe de Fuite.



Crew of Voodoo Child (from left), Dwaine Trummert, Brad Baker, Pete McGonagle, Sam Duchin, Deanne Trummert, Lydia Volberding and Joe Lovejoy.

(Transpac 52), *Renegade* (Andrews 70) and *Cassiopeia* (Davidson 72). These speedsters changed places throughout the race and all finished within 24 hours of each other. *Renegade*, skippered by Dan Sinclair and navigated by Ron Ogilvy from RVYC, took line honours, finishing in 11 days, 21 hours and 39 minutes. On corrected time though, *Flash*, skippered by Dwight Jefferson and navigated by Greg Harms out of RVYC took first in Division.

Division 2 was also dominated by three yachts: *Voodoo Child* (J130), *Antares* (X119) and *Time Bandit* (J120).

First across the line was *Voodoo Child* at 14 days, 3 hours and 16 minutes, skippered by Brian Duchin and navigated by Brad Baker of Tacoma Yacht Club. They corrected out to first in Division and second overall in the race.

Division 3 was also largely a three-boat race between *Tranquillite* (Swan 46), *Winds of Time* (42' sloop) and *Double Deuce* (X Yacht). *Tranquillite*, which was leading the division for some time, finished first in Division in 15 days, 23 hours and 32 minutes, and was the big winner, correcting out to first overall in the race. She was skippered by Jack

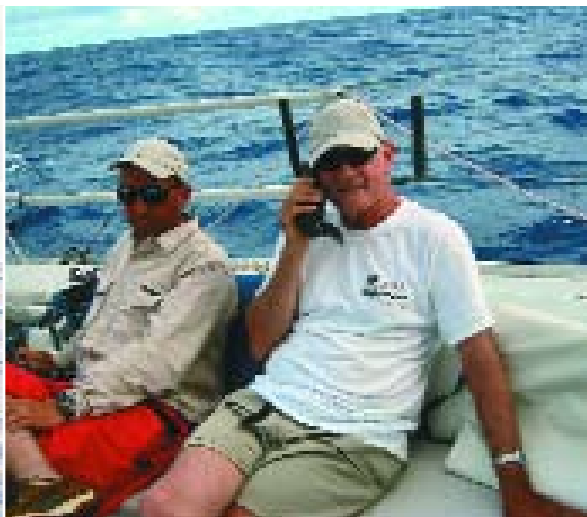
Shannon out of Orcas Island Yacht Club.

This year, it was clearly the smaller boats that did the best on corrected time, as they took the top six fleet positions and proved that bigger isn't always better.

The fleet experienced the usual blown sails, broken halyards and nets, rope and kelp around rudders, but there were no major mishaps.

The current Vic-Maui record holder is the Lahina Yacht Club's *Grand Illusion*, which completed the 2000 Vic-Maui race in 9 days, 2 hours and 8

Scott Robertson (left) and skipper John McPhail on a satellite phone on Jam.



Vern Burkhardt (foreground), Rob Tape at the wheel; Che Pinkerton (left) and Kevin Clarke (right) making water onboard Pointe de Fuite.





Che Pinkerton at the wheel on Pointe de Fuite.



Paul "Luke" Henderson (top) and Chris Owen resting up onboard Flash.



Skipper John McPhail sits amongst freshly laundered clothing on Jam.



Brian Duchin points to the flag on Canada Day as Brad Baker raises a toast on Voodoo Child. Totally Canadian, eh?



Bowman Brian Richards prepares for a spinnaker peel onboard Kinetic.

July 1st turkey dinner; Kirk Fraser (front), Steve Hendricks, Bill Fraser aboard Winds of Time.



Skipper John McPhail and Tom Jones stuck in the windless Pacific high aboard Jam.





Surfing down the Oregon coast; skipper David Sutcliffe steering Kinetic.



Rob Tape (birthday suit) gets a splash from Vern Burkhardt for his Canada Day clean up on Pointe de Fuite.



Captain Steve Clark at the wheel of Winds of Time.



Kinetic's watch captain, Ron MacKenzie, as King Neptune at the halfway/Canada Day party.

Voodoo Child pulls into Lahina Harbour, Maui.



Crew of Winds of Time at the finish line. Back row from left: Bill Fraser, Kirk Fraser, Marc Parent and Jerry Hendricks. Front row from left: Joby Bell, Steve Hendricks, Liane Davison, Steve Clark and Susan Clark.