

RACING

The 2022 Vic-Maui— A Successful Comeback

After a four-year pandemic hiatus, a dozen competing boats enthusiastically entered the 2022 Vic-Maui International Yacht Race. Eight competitors hailed from the Vancouver and Victoria region: Royal Vancouver Yacht Club's *Red Sheilla* and *Phoenix*; Cascadia Yacht Club's *Amun-Ra*, *Outbreak*, and *Millennium Seagull*; Bowen Island Yacht Club's *Flow*; False Creek Yacht Club's *New Haven*; and Royal Victoria Yacht Club's *Planet Express*. The four other entrants represented more distant home ports: Calgary-based Glenmore Sailing Club's *Xiomara*; Hawaii-based *Lurline*; New Mexico-based *Annie M*; and California-based *Peligroso*.

The Royal Vancouver Yacht Club and the Lahaina Yacht Club jointly host the Vic-Maui Race and were pleased with the increased number of boats participating this year. With no race since 2018, there was keen interest in the 2,308-mile ocean race between the two countries.

According to Timothy Jeffery's book, *Sail: A Tribute to the World's Greatest Races, Sailors and Their Boats*, it takes about two years of crew and boat preparation to compete in this highly challenging Pacific offshore race.

The 2022 race produced no new records. La Niña plagued all boats with excruciatingly light winds for days on end. *Peligroso*, Doug Baker's Kernan 68, sought to break *Valkyrie*'s 2016 race record of just over eight days, nine hours but the light winds made



Onboard *Peligroso*.



Vern Burkhardt receives an award for his 13 Vic-Maui races.

this impossible. The final results show that *Peligroso* finished in just over nine days, 21 hours, taking first to finish, first overall and first in division (on corrected time). Ernie Richau won the coveted Gabrielle III Navigator trophy while fellow racer and Watch Captain Samuel Heck said *Peligroso*

plans to return in 2024.

Gord Wylie's XP 44, *Phoenix*, described as a Ferrari, was the first Canadian boat to finish at 13 days, 18 hours, taking second overall and second in division (on corrected time), plus first overall for a Royal Van boat.

In the Lahaina Class, Bruce Townson's Hanse 418, *Millennium Seagull*, took first overall.

Xiomara placed first in Division 2, *Planet Express* placed first in Division 3 and also took third overall. "It's a huge honour to be here and what an amazing race with a photo finish for the record books," said *Planet Express* skipper Adam Serediuk.

Red Sheilla, *Planet Express* and *Xiomara* finished within 19 minutes of each other—more 'round the cans' than ocean crossing.

Two father and son teams joined the event. *Phoenix*'s Gord Wylie and 17-year-old son Findlay raced together. "This race was a decade in the making," Gord said. "After a little bit of prep and planning... [more like a decade and a Vic-Maui 2016] we finally got here... it was seat-of-the-pants, heads-up sailing that kept us moving." On the delivery of *Phoenix* back to BC, another father/son duo, Michael Koster and son Aidan, a racing phenom, shared the sail.

Royal Victoria's Commodore, Vern Burkhardt, raced on *Planet Express*, then delivered *Phoenix*, and was celebrated at the Awards Banquet for his 13 Vic-Maui races and 13 Maui-Vic deliveries—more than any other competitor ever.

For award details visit: vicmaui.org
—Charlotte Gann