

COMPILED BY DALE MILLER

The Boats of Vic-Maui 2008

Pacific Yachting's dockside guide to the boats and racers of Vic-Maui 2008



Black Watch – Vancouver Rowing Club
Black Watch is a 1974 C&C 39 purchased in February of 2006 by Dan Matthieu for long-distance racing. *Black Watch* was signed up for the 2006 Vic-Maui but had to retire because of crew illness. Instead, they took her on the 2006 Baja Ha-Ha and ended up in Cabo San Lucas. She then spent a year in Los Angeles and San Francisco. With a PHRF rating of 112, they have a great chance at the title. The name *Black Watch* originates with the British Army Royal Highland Regiment, founded in 1624 to keep watch on the highlanders of Scotland; their kilts and other clothing were very dark or black, earning them the name Black Watch.

Freedom X – Vashon Island

Freedom X's owner, Alex Wigley, is a North American trapeze dinghy champion who decided to get into bigger boat racing. In 2001, he purchased his Tartan Ten for less than the cost of the main winches, but there was some work to be done: Two years previous, after winning Swiftsure overall, the boat had the misfortune of hitting the Des Moines Pier, dismasting and going under the pier in some good-sized waves. Since then, Wigley has won Swiftsure twice as



helmsman on two other T-Tens. The boat is a Sparkman and Stephens design and a joy to sail.

Mystic – Lahaina Yacht Club

Steve Crary's *Mystic* sails under the Lahaina Yacht Club burgee but is based out of Seattle, Washington. As overall winner on corrected time in the 2002 Vic-Maui, she'll be one of the boats to beat. *Mystic* is a Bill Lee-designed Santa Cruz 52, which holds the distinction of *Sailing World*'s 1996 Boat of the Year.

Passepartout – Anacortes Yacht Club

Peter Shainin's Stephens Custom 47 *Passepartout* hails from the Anacortes Yacht Club. She placed third overall on corrected time in the 2006 Vic-Maui and has several Swiftsure, Southern Straits and Oregon Offshore races under her keel. Along with Shainin, *Passepartout*'s crew is rounded out by Clay Adams, Marlene Bolster, Chris Crookes, Daniel Crookes, Ann Hansen, Andrew Nelson, and Candace and Kenneth Van Gaasbeek.

Red Heather – Squamish Yacht Club

The Olson 40 *Red Heather* borrows her name from the Red Heather Meadows in Garibaldi National Park, where meadows and fabulous backcountry ski pitches offer untold adventure and downhill thrills—just like the Olson 40. *Red Heather*'s crew enjoy both pleasures equally. Primarily based out of the Squamish Yacht Club, the crew have shared many past adventures. They're looking forward to this year's race, especially the amazing Lahaina community spirit that is so evident



on arrival, day or night. *Red Heather* plans on sailing safely, competitively and with the fun gauge dialed as high as possible.

Seeker – Anacortes Yacht Club

Seeker is a Pretorien 35 built by the Wauquiez yard in France in 1982. She has been cruised and raced extensively in Northwest waters. The name *Seeker* is inspired by the adventuresome, exploratory spirit of owners Ken and Kaye Greff, who raised their family while cruising. The 2008 Vic-Maui team is a group of friends who've been sailing and racing together for years, including eight consecutive long-course Swiftsures. They now look forward to this extended blue-water sailing adventure. The crew includes skipper Ken Greff, Andrew Berg as navigator, Lauren Buchholz as foredeck crew, Gary Hammons as trimmer, and Gordon Sims as trimmer and medical officer.

Something Wicked – Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

Something Wicked, a Beneteau 40.7, is new to local waters. She was shipped up from Mexico, where her owners, Kevin and Sandy Reath, lived before calling Sidney home. The boat was successfully raced in Puerto



CLOCKWISE: DAVID WOODCOCK; WWW.RICHPHOTOGRAPHY.CA; LEE YOUNGBLOOD; DAVID WOODCOCK



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Vallarta, winning the overall title in the Banderas Bay Regatta in 2005 and 2007, also winning the Vallarta Cup in 2006 and 2007, and the Governors Cup in 2007.

The crew consists of Kevin and Sandy Reath, Mike Danielson, and Vic-Maui veterans Nick Banks, Rob Tape and Vern Burkhardt, who raced Tape's boat Pointe de Fuite to a fourth place finish in Vic-Maui 2004. Something Wicked is named after the famous line in Shakespeare's Macbeth: "By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes."

Starlight Express – Burrard Yacht Club/ West Vancouver Yacht Club
One of six Hunter's Child HC-50s, *Starlight Express* was splashed in English

Bay in February 2001 and spent her commissioning day racing back and forth across the bay at 12.5 knots in absolutely frigid conditions.

This convinced the Florida-based Hunter team that Canada was truly a cold and forbidding country. Starlight Express' skipper and chief cook, Al and Betty Bartlett, are joined by Greg Tranter on communications, Dr. Bill Pratt as medical officer, and Scott Winton and Rikk Watts as the boat's designated speed men. Lured by the deep blue of the ocean, the Starlight Express crew have the goal of completing the race while building camaraderie and memories—and, of course, reaching the Hawaiian reception party.

Strum – Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
The 2008 Vic-Maui will be the first major offshore race for *Strum*, a Riptide 50 designed by Paul Bieker. Designed to be a comfortable and capable cruising boat without compromising offshore performance, *Strum* weighs in at a svelte 13,500 pounds and carries a powerful sail plan that will provide some exciting rides on the downwind blast to Hawaii. This will be owner Wink Vogel's fifth Vic-Maui race, and the third he'll do with his two sons, Randy and Tim, on the same boat together; between them, this will be their 12th Vic-Maui race. Another father and son combination on *Strum* is Eric Jespersen and his 14-year-old son Ross competing in their first Vic-Maui. Joining the Vogels and Jespersens is Jeff Eckard,



Something Wicked



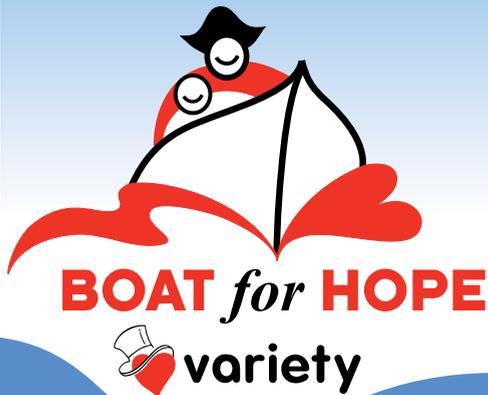
Starlight Express



Strum

FAR RIGHT: DAVE WOODCOCK

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Eric Holden and Andrew McCorquodale. This crew boasts an impressive string of accomplishments, including two world championships, two America's Cups, many offshore races and an Olympic medal.

Turicum – Vancouver Rowing Club

The Vancouver Rowing Club's C&C 44 *Turicum* takes on the Vic-Maui race for the fifth time this year. Previous results are a third place in 1998 and second in 2006—missing first by one hour 25 minutes after 17 days of racing. *Turicum's* skipper, Warren Hale, has managed divisional wins in Southern Straits and Swiftsure. *Turicum's* crew for 2008 is possibly the most talented crew she's ever had. Headed by Dennis Lefeaux of North Sails, the crew includes Gunnar Jonsson, Lew Forth and Carl Dobler, who are Rowing Club members, along with Doug Little, Mark Grey and Chris Rayburn. All have extensive racing experience, although offshore racing may be a bit new to some. *Turicum* is the historical Roman/Latin name for Zurich, Switzerland.

www.sailcraft.com/racing



Zulu – Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

Made from cold-molded ply and hand-finished by Sidney's Jespersen Boat Builders in 2005, Findlay Gibbon's *Zulu* was built as a single-handed offshore cruiser. But with the help of his sons Trevor and Peter, they've whipped *Zulu* into fine offshore racing form. This Paul Gartside-designed Custom 42 features an extensive, integrated electrical sys-



tem; dual wheels; a modern carbon bowsprit; and a huge downwind sail inventory—perfect for the Vic-Maui racetrack. While *Zulu* resides on Vancouver Island, most of her crew comes from the Vancouver racing scene. The Gibbons boys are joined by Greg Westerlund, Doug Beckett, and PY's Tyrone Stelzenmuller and Dale Miller. Following the race, *Zulu* will continue on to New Zealand. 🚩

Racing events

May 30–Jun 1	VARC Randy Vogel Silva Bay Layover Race	RVYC
Jun 14	VARC Martin Marine Round Bowen Island Race	BIYC
Jun 21–22	VARC Waves Keelboat Regatta	RVYC
Jun 22	Vic-Maui 2008 Yacht Race	RVYC, RVicYC & LYC
Aug 29–31	Maple Bay Yacht Club Regatta	Maple Bay

FAR RIGHT: SEAN TREW


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