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BEQUIA SAILING CLUB, P.O.BOX 220BQ, BEQUIA, ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

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## **BEQUIA EASTER REGATTA 2010: The biggest Regatta in the Southern Caribbean!**

The Easter weekend saw another milestone for the Grenadine island of Bequia and its all-volunteer Sailing Club. Regatta 2009's record entry was smashed once again this year with 53 yachts and 33 local double-enders registering to take part in the weekend's racing. And just as in 2009, the record number of yachts entered makes Bequia the biggest meet for yachts in the entire Southern Caribbean for 2010 to date.

The Bequia Sailing Club clearly has produced a winning formula with yachts coming from Trinidad, Grenada, Carriacou, Bequia, St. Vincent, Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua, the USA, Canada and the UK, all eager to take part in the much-praised event.

On the yacht side of the Regatta, which was once again officiated by Principal Race Officer James Benoit from Grenada, there was a new one-design Class for the 25-foot French "Surprise" boats from Martinique. The other four yacht Classes were the existing one-design Class for J24s, the Racing (spinnaker) Class, and two Cruising Classes.

No less than sixteen J24s turned out to compete in their Class, producing yet another record for Bequia – this time for the largest ever meet of these very popular racing boats in the region. *Hawkeye*, skippered by Barbadian Robert Povey was the Overall Winner of Bequia Regatta's 6-race J 24 series. At the Grand Prize-giving at Gingerbread Hotel on Easter Monday, opened by Sir James Mitchell and attended by the Hon. Dr. Godwin Friday, and SVG Tourism Authority COO Ms. Faylene Findlay-Scrubb, Povey was also crowned first-ever J24 Southern Caribbean Champion by the newly-formed J24 Southern Caribbean Council. It is a great honour for the Bequia Sailing Club that Bequia's Regatta has been chosen by the J 24 Council to be the home of their prestigious annual Championship.

Overall winners in the other four yacht classes were Racing Class: *Category V* (Grenada); Cruising I: *Petit Careme* (Trinidad); Cruising II: *Trinity* (USA) and Surprise: *Clipper's Ship* decided on a whisker tie-break with *Digilife*, both from Martinique.

Anyone who has been to Bequia at Easter will know that for many, it is the local double-enders boats that represent the true heart of the Regatta. These striking sprit rigged boats that raced for three days over the Easter weekend came mostly from Bequia, but with seven from Canouan, two from Union and three from Carriacou completing the 33-boat fleet, the contribution from the other Grenadine islands was significant in producing a record breaking entry.

With Pepsi, Mount Gay and Heineken each sponsoring one of the three days of local boat racing, the Overall Winner in the 28-foot Class 7 was *Lightning*, built in Carriacou in 2009 for Petit Martinique-born Bequia resident Boysie Decouteau. The other overall winners were *Knowledge* (Class I), *My Love* (Class II), *Unity* from Union (Class IV), *Tornado* (Class VA), *Shamu* Class VB, and *Limbo Dance* (Class VI). *Iron Duke*, Bequia's legendary New England-built whaleboat dating back to the 1870s, sped through the waters with her customary grace in Class VI and was never far behind *Limbo Dance*.

But it wasn't only competing boats that crowded the harbour in Admiralty Bay. An estimated 100 additional yachts came to Bequia to see the traditional sprit-rigged local boat compete, follow the yachts races or simply enjoy being in Bequia at Easter. Regatta sponsors Bequia Beach Hotel provided a wonderful Lay Day of family entertainment on Easter Sunday, hosting the Regatta Sandcastle Competition, and entertaining a relaxed and happy crowd of all ages with the Bequia children's steel pan orchestra and traditional string music. Elsewhere, crowds from both Bequia and the mainland headed for Lower Bay for the finish of Sunday's Heineken fishing boat race and the popular Easter Sunday fete.

The Regatta attracted a record number of visitors to the island and accommodation was almost impossible to find in the days leading up to the event. The Bequia Sailing Club came in for universally high praise for its organization and smooth running of the Regatta, and received many promises to return in 2011!

The Regatta organisers would like to thank The SVG Ministry of Tourism for their increased contribution this year; main sponsors Heineken (St. Vincent Brewery), Mount Gay and Pepsi (Bottlers Ltd.), Mountain Top Water, Tradewinds Cruise Club, the Frangipani Hotel, Bequia Beach Hotel, De Reef, Windward Island Plantation and C. K. Greaves and Darnley Frederick for their exceptionally generous and loyal support of this prestigious sporting and tourism event. Thanks must also go to all business and private donors and all the volunteers within the Sailing Club who worked so hard to make Regatta 2010 another great success.

For full results see [www.begos.com/easterregatta](http://www.begos.com/easterregatta)

# OVERALL YACHT RESULTS 2010

## CRUISING CLASS 1

POSITION	NAME OF BOAT	BOAT TYPE	SKIPPER	COUNTRY
1st	Petit Careme	Beneteau 38	Rawle Barrow	Trinidad
2nd	Bloody Mary	Hughes 38	Jerry Stewart	Grenada
3rd	Nirvana	San Juan 34	Lloyd DeRoche	Trinidad

## CRUISING CLASS II

1st	Trinity	Concordia Custom 46	Doug Pinciario	USA
2nd	Breezing Up	J 46	Brad Willauer	USA
3rd	Dionysus	Hallberg. Rassy 39	Jack Burns	USA

## RACING CLASS

1st	Category 5	Hobie 33	Richard Szyjan	Grenada
2nd	Fiser	Melges 24	J-M Figueres	France
3rd	Ven Dan Wvell	JOD 35	Claude Monsoro	France

## J24 CLASS

1st	Hawkeye	J24	Robert Povey	Barbados
2nd	JCB	J24	Michael Green	St. Lucia
3rd	Jabal	J24	Nick Forsberg	St. Lucia

## SURPRISE CLASS

1st	Clippers Ship	Surprise	Manu Velasquez	France
2nd	Digilife	Surprise	Vianney Saintenoy	France
3rd	WIND	Surprise	Theo Cordonnier	France

## SINGLE HANDED

### CSA RATED

1st	Clippers Ship	Surprise	Manu Velasquez	France
2nd	Fiser	Melges 24	J-M Figueres	France
3rd	GFA Caraibes	Surprise	Benjamin Leys	France

## SINGLE HANDED

### Simplified CSA RATED

1st	Klondike	Beneteau 456	Don Radcliffe	USA
2nd	Buzzard	Beneteau 373	Derek Ide	UK
3rd	Dionysus	Hallberg Rassy 39	Jack Burns	USA