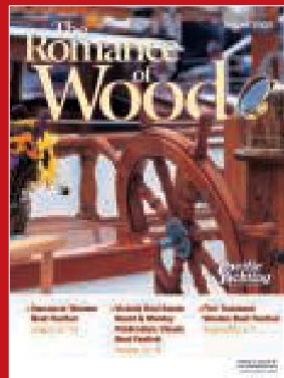


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As a proud sponsor of the Cadillac Van Isle 360°, congratulations to everyone who made it around.



**CADILLAC**  
DEALERS OF BC

# CADILLAC VAN ISLE 360

BY SHIRLEY HEWETT

**Despite the chills and spills inherent in this challenging course, crews reported beautiful spinnaker runs and gorgeous sailing conditions.**

CARLOS DA PONTE PHOTO



Redshift at Deepwater Bay start.



Aerial crossing Ragtime en route to Telegraph Cove.

The fourth Cadillac Van Isle 360 International Yacht Race will go down in the record books for non-stop action and thrills with fierce competition, broken boats, broken ribs, rescues and new speed records.

On June 14 at 1030 hrs, brisk winds powered 35 yachts across the Nanaimo Harbour starting line for the start of a two-week, 10-leg, 580-mile circumnavigation of Vancouver Island. The event challenges sailors with a full spectrum of conditions and hazards, from tricky inshore currents and back-eddies along rock-infested shorelines, to offshore seas, gales and overnight ocean passages. Blown out sails, broken gear and accidents happened throughout the race.

John Collins, a sailor with 30 years experience, was knocked overboard from Bill Malone's 40' *Aerial* just after the start and was safely recovered by the crew of *Ragtime*. After leaving Port Hardy, Ron Jewula, owner of the 34' *Ockham's Racer*, reported that the sail around the top of the island was "absolutely gorgeous," and the nicest he'd experienced during three previous races and once when cruising. "We beat up Goletas Channel, reached across the top, and had a beautiful spinnaker run down to Winter Harbour." Things didn't go so well for several other boats, including Bob Brunius's 40' *Time Bandit*, which T-boned Bob Lubowicki's 39' *Carene* at the start of the race and disqualified themselves from that leg. The shallow and often-dangerous Nawhitti Bar damaged two catamarans. Pat McGarry's 40' catamaran *Dragonfly*, which set two new speed records, broke her bow pole plowing through "huge square waves" at the height of the tide.

Karl Othoff's 35' catamaran *Bad Kitty* broke a daggerboard and rudder falling off a wave. Both boats still managed to finish the leg.

The offshore legs from Cape Scott to Victoria were sailed under ideal sailing conditions, with following winds of 20 to 30 kts. "It's the best sail I've ever had absolutely, surfing and running," said Eric Jespersen, who joined Olympic owners Ross and Marcia Macdonald aboard the 34' *Vaca Loca* in Winter Harbour.

Tim Knight and Sandy McMillan, owners of the 31' trimaran *Flip, Flop and Fly* were happy to finally complete this leg. (As *3D*, she capsized during the 2001 race and was blown beyond Triangle Island in 2000). However, like the other legs, there were problems. A crewman

aboard Kim Alfreds' 33' trimaran *Cheekee Monkey* broke three ribs and sustained other injuries when the charging boat stuffed into a wave. Offshore SAR standby vessel HMCS *Brandon* towed Gunnar Johnson's 33' *Havoc* to Zeballos after her rudder sheered off near Esperanza Inlet. On June 25, race organizer Wayne Gorrie's 31' trimaran *Redshift* capsized 10 miles from the Victoria finish line. The crew who were uninjured, accessed their emergency equipment through a small port on the upturned hull and radioed for assistance. They were picked up by American and Canadian Coast Guard within 45 minutes.

The final overnight through the islands to Nanaimo offered constant challenges, including anchoring to outwait waning winds.

The fleet was greeted at host cities along the way with great fanfare. Locals welcomed crews with entertainment, barbecues, special prizes, moorage and other treats. For more information visit [www.vanisle360.com](http://www.vanisle360.com).

**OVERALL winners**

**Div. 1**  
 1st: *Vaca Loca*, Ross Macdonald, RVanYC  
 2nd: *Crossfire*, Tom Gornall, CBYC  
 3rd: *Evolution*, Daryl Homan/Alex Fox, Sidney, B.C.

**Div. 2**  
 1st: *Lordelpus*, Matt Wagstaffe, VRC  
 2nd: *Ockham's Racer*, Ron Jewula, RVicYC  
 3rd: *Il Pelicano*, Gordon Shoquist, NYC

**Div. 3**  
 1st: (and also winner of the fastest elapsed time trophy with a total time of 74:48:38) *Cheekee Monkee*, Kim Alfreds, BYC  
 2nd: *Redshift*, Wayne Gorrie, NYC  
 3rd: *Flip, Flop and Fly*, Tim Knight/Sandy McMillan, RVicYC



Tim McKnight and Sandy McMillan's 31' trimaran *Flip, Flop and Fly* during Leg One.



Gord Shoquist, owner of the 35' *Il Pelicano*, sailed an excellent race winning first place in his division during Leg Five.



The Canadian Forces' 102' HMCS *Oriole*, was flying down the course with her huge gennaker, when she truly "blanketed" Double Deuce plastering the enormous sail against Double Deuce's rigging, and shredding the sail in the process during Leg One.



*Redshift* getting righted.



Boats battled the current a mile off the finish line at Eden Point on Leg Four, which pushed them everywhere but across. Boats bounced off each other in the light air and strong current and *Flip, Flop and Fly* ricocheted between the shore and the committee boat in its effort to complete the course.



Don Taylor's 45' *First Sight* broached during Leg One of the race.



On Leg 10 from Victoria to Nanaimo the combination of very light wind and current almost forced Bob Brunius's J120 *Time Bandit* onto the breakwater. It took several attempts and at least five minutes for the boat to clear herself, but eventually the main was backwinded and the boat backed off the concrete barrier with a huge cheer from the spectators.

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