



Photo: TODD VANSICKLE

Peter Haycraft and his son, Chris, left, sail downwind during the last day of the regatta.

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full capacity, with only a couple of cancellations, he added.

"It is slightly disconcerting how smoothly everything went," Mr. Sutherland-Pilch said. "We were waiting for something to go all wrong. Fortunately, it didn't, and we had a great time."

There were some minor incidents like boat collisions, but the general manager said that is to be expected with so many boats in the marina.

Extra precautions were taken when *Necker Belle* came to dock. Although larger boats have been in the marina before, the yacht's width was a concern. The depth of the channel had to be measured to ensure that other boats could pass safely, Mr. Sutherland-Pilch said, adding that a few anchored boats had to be moved to accommodate the yacht.

On land, Mr. Sutherland-Pilch was happy with the police presence.

"We didn't have any unnecessary trouble," he said.

According to Sergeant Selwyn Rock, "No incidents were reported, and everything went smoothly."

The police met with the BVISR Committee prior to the event to discuss how they would patrol. There were two auxiliary officers handling traffic each night, two high-visibility officers in the village and armed officers for security, according to Mr. Rock.

The sergeant said he believes the police presence helped deter crime.

"It is always better safe than sorry," Mr. Rock said.

### More than just racing

For one New York family, the regatta doubles as a family vacation.

Father-and-son team Frank

and Dean Mavronicolas have been participating in the event for the past three years.

Over the weekend, they sailed aboard a Swan 57 boat called *Boonatsa*, a name that derives from an Italian term for good sailing, the father said.

On Friday, the boat started off the day with a broken halyard line. But the rope, used to hoist the sail with a powerful electric winch, was quickly repaired with what looked like a nautical version of a home sewing kit, and the boat went on to finish fifth out of eight competitors.

### Closing down

By Monday morning, tents were coming down in the village and sailors were leaving the marina.

*Toda Via* captain Dwight Rodriguez was loading up his boat, preparing for the nine-hour sail back to Puerto Rico. There, he planned to make repairs to his boat before heading to St. Maarten, then Antigua Sailing Week.

Mr. Rodriguez, who has been sailing in various regattas in the region for the past month, said he last competed in the BVISR in 1985.

"It was a very long time ago," he said. "Things have changed, but the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I think, has been the best one that I have been to here."

He added that he enjoys coming to the BVISR because of the organisation and the courses that the event offers.

"Every time we can come here, we will. It is a long way, but it is worth it," Mr. Rodriguez said. "We are ready to come back next year."

*Steven Melendez contributed to this report.*



Photo: TODD VANSICKLE

Team WAVE, left, starts a race during the BVI Spring Regatta on Friday.

## Female sailors race for a cause

By NGOVOU GYANG

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The sailing and partying drew hundreds of sailors and visitors to Nanny Cay over the weekend.

But the crew of Team WAVE — Women Against Violence Everywhere — also had another aim: to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Though they did not perform as well as they wanted during the races, the group raised \$25,000, which they donated to the Family Support Network on Tuesday.

"We want to help raise awareness against domestic violence and also to give back to the community," said Val Doan, founder of Team WAVE.

After races at the regatta, the team members sold wristbands, solicited funds and spoke to attendees about domestic violence, according to Ms. Doan.

"They've been very supportive," she said of regatta



Photo: NGOVOU GYANG

Val Doan, (third from right) along with other members of Team WAVE, makes a donation to the Family Support Network's Judith Charles (second from right). The all-female crew raised funds during the Spring Regatta.

participants.

The crew of six was one of the few all-female crews at the sailing competition, according to Ms. Doan.

For five years, the women have participated in regattas around the region. Along the way, they have raised funds for several women's shelters and initiatives that are geared

towards raising awareness about domestic violence.

FSN President Judith Charles accepted the donation on behalf of the organisation.

"All forms of violence are escalating in the world," Ms. Charles said.

She thanked the group, explaining that the FSN always welcomes donations.