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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WHIDBEY ISLAND RACE WEEK REGATTA ANNOUNCES NEW EVENT PARTNERS:
TESLA AND BACARDI
AND OTHER NEW EVENT DEVELOPMENTS**

Seattle, Washington: Whidbey Island Race Week (WIRW), the premier sailboat-racing regatta in the Pacific Northwest, announces the additions of TESLA and Bacardi as new event partners at Whidbey Island Race Week, happening in Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island, Washington July 18-24, 2015.

TESLA will be providing the Ultimate Tesla Experience to the overall winner of WIRW and Bacardi comes on board as a Presenting Sponsor.

"I knew there was a reason that I will buy a Tesla and switch back to Bacardi, the rum of my choice in the 60s," said 2015 Whidbey Island Race Week skipper, Steve Sponsor (Gypsy's Child, Harbor 25) when he learned of these new developments. "Congratulations on getting two world-class sponsors involved. Of course, I think they are lucky to be included in what you will make into the number one sailing event on the West Coast. Sponsorship of sailing is very important to me, and when I see companies like this sponsoring an event they move to the top of my list."

Bacardi is the largest privately held spirits company in the world, producing and marketing a variety of internationally recognized premium spirits and wines.

Family-owned Bacardi has a presence in more than 150 markets worldwide including the United States, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Germany, Italy, China, Brazil and Russia. The Bacardi brand portfolio includes more than 200 brands and labels including BACARDI® rum, the world's best-selling and most-awarded rum, as well as the world's most-awarded spirit; GREY GOOSE® vodka, the world's leading super premium vodka; DEWAR'S® Blended Scotch whisky, the world's most awarded blended Scotch and the number-one selling premium blended Scotch whisky in the United States; BOMBAY SAPPHIRE® gin, the top-valued and fastest-growing premium gin in the world; MARTINI® vermouth and sparkling wines, the world's leading vermouth and the world's favorite Italian sparkling wines; CAZADORES® 100% blue agave tequila, one of the most popular premium tequilas in Mexico and the United States; and other leading and emerging brands, most of which are sold globally.

Bacardi has been owned and operated by seven generations of Bacardi family members since Don Facundo Bacardí Massó founded the company in Santiago de Cuba on February 4, 1862.

Whidbey Island Race Week will feature Bacardi brands exclusively at the event.

TESLA's Model S has the highest safety rating in America, is autopilot equipped, is available in all-wheel drive dual motor, achieves zero to 60 mph in as little as 3.2 seconds and has up to a 270 miles range (EPA). TESLA will display the Model S on-site at the event and will give the Ultimate TESLA experience (that includes a TESLA merchandise package and 24 hours of drive time in the TESLA Model S) to the overall regatta winner of Whidbey Island Race Week.

Current Sponsors of 2015 Whidbey Island Race Week:

Event Host
Oak Harbor Yacht Club

Overall Regatta Winner Award Event Partner
Tesla

Presenting Sponsors
Bacardi
Fisheries Supply
CSR Marine

Title Sponsor of Whidbey Island Race Week Kids Zone
Brenda Van Fossen, MD

Official Hotel of Whidbey Island Race Week
Best Western Plus in Oak Harbor

Official Supplier of Whidbey Island Race Week Merchandise
Prism Graphics

Overall Awards Sponsor
Sea Bags

Daily Awards Sponsor
Ullman Sails

Supporting Sponsors
Flyers Brewery

Current Event Partners of 2015 Whidbey Island Race Week:

City of Oak Harbor
Oak Harbor Marina
Oak Harbor Youth Sailing Program
Kitsap Sailing & Rowing Foundation
City of Coupeville
Coupeville Chamber of Commerce
Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association
Toppins Frozen Yogurt

Raffle Sponsors of 2015 Whidbey Island Race Week:
Harken

In Kind Sponsors of 2015 Whidbey Island Race Week:

Center for Wooden Boats
Seattle Children's Hospital
Ocean Navigator Magazine
Whidbey Local Search

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Other New Developments at Whidbey Island Race Week:

[WIRW Event Schedule](#)

Superior race management combined with morning Chalk Talks, fun crew contests, expanded food and beverage choices, the return of Reggae Night and Outdoor Movie Nights and more. The current WIRW Event Schedule is available at <http://www.whidbeyislandraceweek.com/schedule>.

WIRW Chalk Talks

Morning Chalk Talks featuring an individual or a panel of individuals will take place each morning Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24 from 9-10 am at the Oak Harbor Yacht Club. Coffee and breakfast service will be available and WIRW is currently booking speakers for these events. Confirmed speakers now include Will Lesh of Tippicanoe Boats, (Trans-Atlantic Sailor and Designer of the T37 Model Boats), who will speak and provide T37 demonstrations on Tuesday, July 21. On Wednesday, July 22, a panel featuring women sailors will speak about the rise and influence of women in the sport.

New Whidbey Island Race Week Kids Camp Director

Whidbey Island Race Week has hired Tricia Lapse as the new WIRW Kids Camp Director. Tricia Lapse is a 25 year teaching veteran of the Seattle Public School and Mukilteo School Districts. A graduate of Seattle Pacific University, Tricia is currently teaching Kindergarten at Loyal Heights Elementary in Ballard, WA. She has been a substitute teacher and camp counselor for all grade levels and brings a wealth of experience to WIRW Kids Camp. In partnership with the Oak Harbor Youth Sailing program and the Kitsap Sailing and Rowing Foundation, WIRW Kids Camp is a week long summer camp for WIRW racers' kids to run adjacent to the race program. Parents can race and their kids can learn to sail & participate in fun activities and island outings.

WIRW Kids Camp runs 10 am-6 pm Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24 and will include sailing instruction by US Sailing certified instructors, field trips to Camp Casey, Rosario Tide Pools, Coupeville and other destinations on Whidbey Island, in addition to many other crafts and activities. In 2015, WIRW Kids Camp will be limited to 20 kids ages 5-12. For parents coming to Whidbey Island Race Week with kids under 5, a playgroup is being planned that will connect these parents and children together.

"Sailors can still come to Whidbey Island Race Week for the adult summer camp that they have grown to love over the years. But now, in addition to the traditions, the event also offers something an entire family can experience and new traditions can be formed. Our vision is to build WIRW Kids Camp into a youth sailing program that introduces the experience of sailboat racing to an entirely new generation of sailors."
Schelleen Rathkopf, Owner, Whidbey Island Race Week

WIRW Kids Camp schedule and staff bios are at <http://www.whidbeyislandraceweek.com/kids-camp>

WIRW Merchandise Available Online

The WIRW online store is open and racers can shop for great WIRW race wear including jackets and sportswear. Racers can also customize their race wear to include individual boat names. The WIRW online store is at <http://wirwstore.com>

2015 Event Registration

Event registration is at www.whidbeyislandraceweek.com. There will be a limit of 100 dinghies and 150 big boats for 2015.

Dinghy Racing

Dinghy racing will take place in Penn Cove. Access to Penn Cove will be made available to dinghy sailors at Captain Coup Park in Coupeville where there is a boat launch, floating dock and restrooms. Parking for boats and trailers will be available on the grounds of Coupeville Community Bible Church, located 1 ½ blocks from Captain Coup Park. Charley Rathkopf will be the Primary Race Officer for dinghy weekend and use the same race committee assets that is used for big boat racing.

2015 WIRW Fleet Developments

WIRW will be a Hobie Class Association points regatta in 2015. To date, the largest fleet is the J105s with 8 boats registered, but Melges 24 registrations are starting to increase. WIRW is just a few weeks before the Melges North Americans in the Gorge and many are using it as a tune up regatta. There is Martin 242 interest from California, British Columbia and the San Juan Islands and it is probable that there will be enough boats for a one design start. Participation interest is also growing in the Lidos, Snipes, SJ 21s, and C20s fleets

About Whidbey Island Race Week

Whidbey Island Race Week is the premier sailboat racing event in the Pacific Northwest. For 32 years, thousands of sailboat racers have made their way to Oak Harbor, Washington each July to participate in this week-long sailboat racing regatta. The venue for the event is the Oak Harbor Yacht Club & Oak Harbor Marina and the PHRF and One Design racing is offered inside Penn Cove near Coupeville and Saratoga Passage. Boats under 24 feet will race Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19. The big boats will race daily Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24. For the past 11 years, US Sailing Certified Regional Race Officer Charley Rathkopf has served as the Primary Race Officer for Whidbey Island Race Week and his race committee team has earned the reputation of offering some of the best race management in the country. Information about the new WIRW ownership by Schelleen and Charley Rathkopf and their race and event management experience and the WIRW Advisory Board can be found at www.whidbeyislandraceweek.com

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