

## **Dealing With Trash During The Bermuda Race - II**

### **A Postscript, A Suggestion for Cruisers and A Revision**

The Environment of the Sea Committee's paper "Dealing With Trash During the Bermuda Race" has appeared on this webpage since it was prepared prior to the 2010 Newport Bermuda Race. For that year's race, the Race Committee urged participants to voluntarily consider using its "leave no trace" approach to dealing with trash during the race. For the 2012 NBR, the Race Committee decided to seek certification of the race under the Clean Regatta program of Sailors For The Sea and it incorporated the standards embraced by the paper into the Race Rules, thus making them mandatory. The Environment of the Sea Committee commends the Race Committee for taking this action.

One testimonial to the efficacy of the leave-no-trace philosophy came from Michael Johnson, skipper of the yacht Moondance, which participated in the 2012 NBR, who sent an email to the Race Committee shortly before the start of the race regarding his boat's waste management plan, which incorporated many of the suggestions in the Environment of the Sea Committee's paper. He reported that during the 2010 NBR his boat Manana, with a crew of seven, arrived in Bermuda after nearly four days only one half-full bag of garbage and recycling and that since 2012, as a result of giving the subject additional thought, his management of trash aboard had become even more efficient. This is encouraging news. Congratulations to Michael and to Jackie Conese, Moondance's Waste Management Officer.

While the paper "Dealing With Trash During the Bermuda Race" was prepared with a relatively short ocean race in mind, its rationale applies with equal force to boats which go to sea for the purpose of cruising. In terms of contributing to the degradation of our oceans, whether trash comes from a boat which is racing or cruising is irrelevant. Moreover, even though some cruising boats are smaller than the yachts racing in the NBR and some may sail greater distances offshore, there is no evident reason why such boats cannot, and should not, embrace the leave-no-trace philosophy and provision and manage trash at sea accordingly.

In view of the foregoing, the Environment of the Sea Committee has revised its paper, which is now entitled "Leave-No-Trace - Dealing With Trash At Sea - An Ocean-Friendly Approach For Cruising and Racing Sailors". It is posted elsewhere on this webpage.