

IRC racing and general sailing in Brazil during 2020

Without getting into details, for every regatta organizer of the world, 2020 was (and still is at this moment) a very difficult year. As soon as the pandemic news crisscrossed all over and without really knowing what was happening, Brazilian Authorities closed all social and commercial activities for unlimited time. This happened around 12 March.

Our racing calendar starts around March, for offshore & dinghies; the general consensus is everybody is out on family holidays before that. So, lock-up got us just in the middle of the first sailing week-end. Of four races scheduled in Ilhabela (São Paulo State), only two were held.

By then we had some 28 Certificates issued. Ranging from our biggest boats (Carabelli 53, three of them) to the smallest ones (a Mini-Transat), and the oldest one, a 6 Meter from 1933. We have a mixed fleet, in age, sizes and types: Beneteau, Grand Soleil, Dufour, Umberto Felci, of different lines. Then all the Brazilian build boats, with several designs from Argentinean Nestor Volker, Brazilian Horacio Carabelli, some One-Off ex-IMS, converted to cruising; lots of carbon square headed mainsails and jibs with full Dacron and genoa furlers do race together.

This lack of actual sailing didn't deter several owners who took advantage to study, test and modify their IRC Certificates. So the comings and goings between us and Central Office was constant.

Eventually, in September we had a release of social distancing and racing resumed with a re-arranged calendar. The first event was Ubatuba Sailing Festival, a three days affair with over 50 boats, a mix of medium distance and up & downwind races, light winds during all races where more than 70% of the fleet came from others ports, some as far away as 120 miles. In IRC we had 13 boats with these results:

BOAT	TYPE	TCC	R1	R2	R3	R4	OVERALL
Rudá	Land Mark 43	1.148	1	1	1	1	3
King	Soto 40 OD	1.243	2	3	2	2	6
Avohai	IMX 40	1.072	4	2	4	5	10
Asbar IV	First 35	1.020	5	4	3	6	12
Xamã	Grand Soleil 46	1.115	9	5	5	4	14
Bravo	Skipper 30	0.959	7	6	6	3	15
Iñaé 40	First 40.7	1.039	3	7	8	7	17
Argos	Soto 40 OD	1.206	6	8	7	9	21
Aries 5	Delta 45	1.138	8	11	11	10	29
Boto V	Solaris 50	1.169	10	10	9	11	29
My Boy	Carabelli 32	1.002	12	12	10	8	30
Montecristo	Carabelli 53	1.239	11	9	12	12	32
Jacaré	Mini Transat	1.004	13	14	14	14	41

Club racing also came alive, but with very small IRC fleets. We managed to finish the second week-end of the Suzuki Cup that was left from the beginning of the year, where on Saturday the winds went over 45 TWS and races were cancelled due to the RC needing to assist dinghies that were carried away. Until then, three spinnakers blew in pieces...

As of now, middle October, we have over 50 IRC Certificates issued and probably what is the most traditional race on our calendar, this year on her 70th edition, the Santos to Rio de Janeiro Race is just two weeks away. And three days later, in Rio, we have the Circuito Rio 2020. Some 40 boats will race under IRC in both events. Warm air and cold waters guarantee some hard & fun races.

We will report as soon as it's over!

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