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GRENADA ROUND-THE-ISLAND RACE A SMASHING SUCCESS!

Sailing record shattered; Youth Sailing, Bathtub Derby and A Taste of Grenada made for a thrilling party on the beach attended by over a 1,000 people

Grenada, West Indies (17 March 2009) – The seventh annual Grenada Round-the-Island Race surpassed all expectations this year with its expanded line up of activities. It was truly an event that had something for everyone and organizers expect the weekend to grow in the future to be a regional and international event not to be missed.

Eleven boats competed in Saturday's around-the-island race. Sailors gathered at Port Louis on Friday evening for a skipper's briefing and cocktail party and were treated to breakfast Saturday morning before hitting the water bright and early at 8 a.m.

The traditional sailing event was energized this year with the entry of the Horizon Region Guadeloupe, billed as the fastest boat in the Caribbean. The trimaran did not disappoint – it shattered the old sailing record by almost two hours with an elapsed time of 3 hours, 54 minute and 2 seconds.

Though some boats suffered mishaps that forced them to abandon the race, nine boats finished the day-long sail. Horizon Region Guadeloupe led the multihull category with Genesis coming in second with a corrected time of 451.62 minutes. Category 5 took the lead in the racing class with a time of 376.38 minutes and Boxxer led the cruising class competition with a time of 408.67 minutes.

While sailors were racing around the island a lively group of youth gathered at Grand Anse beach for fun in the water and on land. Children from the LIMES After School Program and Queen Elizabeth's Home for Children tossed water balloons, played lime and spoon relays and enjoyed face painting on the beach.

The Budget Marine Youth Sailing Exhibition displayed talented and energetic youth sailing their personal watercrafts. After several races, the overall optimist winner was Shakeem Collins and the overall laser winner was Micheal Mc Queen.

MC Gary Smooth and DJ Danny kept the energy up all day and hundreds gathered around Garfield's Beach Bar to enjoy a leisurely Saturday while the kids played.



On Sunday the beach activities really heated up and a huge crowd gathered by the end of the day to enjoy the festivities. The weather was clear and warm but the water was cool and the food and drinks flowed while the music kept everyone grooving.

The first annual Bathtub Derby was a hit with everyone on the beach. Onlookers gathered along the shoreline and cheered as the home-made boats frantically paddled around buoys just off shore.

Mark De Caul was the winner in the one-man boat competition, racing his simple wooden vessel called Trial and Error, while Ivor Trimm's team won the two-man competition in the bicycle-powered Saltfish Souise.

Delicious food was sold all day at A Taste of Grenada. Attendees enjoyed local treats such as oil down, fried jacks, fried bread fruit and macaroni pie from Gouyave and Victoria food vendors. Restaurants were busy serving everything from pizza and hamburgers to sushi and curry dishes.

The Steel Band started off the day's musical entertainment around 3 p.m. with their light and airy Caribbean sound. The Tivoli Drummers carried the beat on with their synchronized drumming and choreographed dancers. The Baracuda Band closed out the evening with an energetic two hour set that lasted until after dark.

Peter David, Minister of Tourism, speaking at the award-giving ceremony on Sunday afternoon said the Grenada Round-the-Island Race weekend was a great event for the people of Grenada and promised his full support for the event in years to come.

Organizers of the event are thrilled with the weekend turnout and are already eagerly planning an even bigger and better event for next year.

To learn more about the weekend, call 444-4662 or visit www.aroundgrenada.com.

The Grenada Round-the-Island Race is grateful to all of our sponsors: Carib, Spronk's Limited, Bananas Restaurant, Spronk's Mega Yacht Services, Real Value Supermarket, Grenada Board of Tourism, Bryden & Minors, Budget Marine, Grenada Yacht Club, Garfield's Beach Bar, Camper and Nicholsons Port Louis Marina, Waggy-T, Horizon Yacht Charters, Flow, Shabbazz Jewellery, Wave Crest Holiday Apartments, ScubaTech, Grenada Info and Activities, Island Water World, Grenada Marine, Glenelg, The Canvas Shop Grenada, True Blue Bay Resort, Westerhall Rum, North South Wines, Di Vino, D Sports Shop, Grenada Grande Beach Resort and De La Grenade.

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