

Pete du Pont's *GLORY* is 1994 North American Champ



Governor Pete du Pont (left) and the crew of *GLORY* accept the North American Championship Trophy. Photo by C. Barber

NEWPORT, RI (Sep 25); Today former Governor of Delaware, Pete du Pont won the 6th annual three day J/44 North American Championship. Although not winning any of the four races, du Pont and his crew sailed his J/44, *GLORY*, to very consistent top finishes in each race to take the 1994 Championship. He was awarded the J/44 Class North American Championship Perpetual Trophy.

Governor du Pont was an intercollegiate sailor at Princeton and sailed in the 1956 Olympic Trials. He was navigator for Ted Hood in the America's Cup 12 meter *NEERTITI* and continues to be an active helmsman with a winning record in Chesapeake Bay and Penobscot Bay in Maine.

Mike and Kathi Frigard of Marblehead, MA were runners-up in *LOOSE GOOSE VII*. Jim Bishop, runner-up in the 1993 Championship, finished third in *GOLD DIGGER*.

(Continued on page 3)

CHALLENGE II and *CAPELLA VII* Excel in 1994 Bermuda Race

Jim Stanley is First J/44 to Finish while Jeff Willis takes IMS Class Honors

HAMILTON, Bermuda (June 25); Jeff Willis sailed his *CHALLENGE II* to a very close win over Jim Stanley's *CAPELLA IV* in the 1994 Newport to Bermuda Race. This was the first time in the history of the race that there was a one-design class start. Although *CAPELLA IV* finished two minutes and five seconds ahead of *CHALLENGE II*, the latter boat corrected ahead by fifteen min. and one sec. in this IMS performance handicap race.

Indicative of the close racing in this class, the first four J/44s finished within nineteen minutes of each other. The entire twelve boat class finished within a four hour time span...this after racing 635 miles!

Willis had owned *CHALLENGE II* for only a few weeks at the time of the race. This was only the first time that the crew had raced together.

In a race that was forecast to have light winds throughout, Willis played the Gulf Stream expertly to gain advantage. *CHALLENGE* sailed slightly west through a warm eddy north of the Stream, then hardened up to catch the apex of the south-easterly setting slope of the stream (see Gulf Stream map). Willis caught a 4 to 6 knot boost from the stream for over 120 miles, then reached through what NOAA's Jennifer Clark described as a "double-helix" south of the Stream.

Willis says that the race was won in the last hours as the

(Continued on page 2)

