

# J<sup>®</sup> 44

# Class Association, Inc.

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A NEWSLETTER FOR J/44 OWNERS AND FRIENDS  
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## Jim Bishop's GOLD DIGGER Wins 1995 J/44 North American Championship

NEW YORK, NY., July 2, 1995 - Jim Bishop, Sr. won the 1995 J/44 North American Championship which was held in conjunction with Block Island Race Week on June 26-30. Bishop, sailing his J/44, *GOLD DIGGER*, dominated ten other J/44s in level racing, to take the Championship series. Rodney Billinge's *PREMIER CRU* was second and Barry Mavin's *MABUHAY II* was third. Jim Bishop is from Saddle River, NJ. This was the seventh time this championship event has been held.

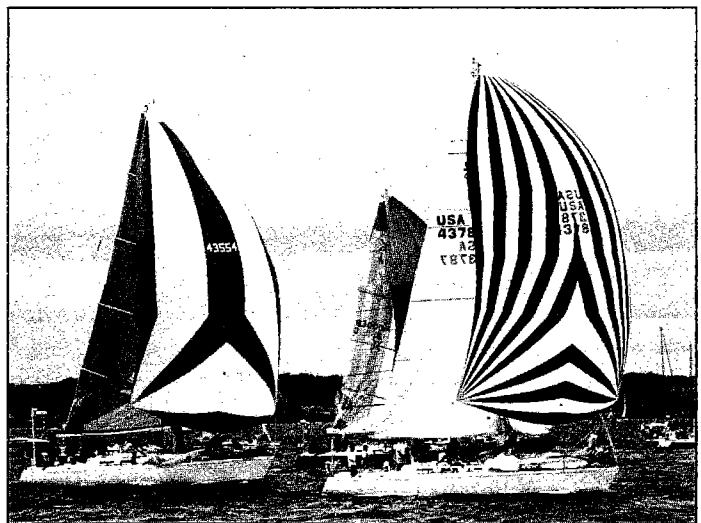
The Storm Trysail Club's biannual Block Island Race Week was the perfect venue for the J/44 Championship. Four races were held. *GOLD DIGGER* won the first race, a 15 mile windward/leeward, by better than three minutes over the competition. Racing was cancelled on the second day because of strong nor'easterly winds. Two short windward/leewards were conducted when racing resumed on Wednesday. Sailing in difficult light and fluky winds, *GOLD DIGGER* won the first race by over a minute. Bishop ended up third behind Rod Billinge's (Mamaroneck, NY) *PREMIER CRU* and Bob Shear's (Marblehead, MA) *URANIA* in the second race.

Thursday saw the fleet sail the traditional Around Block Island Race (23.8 miles). Bishop was over early and had to make up a lot of ground in the light (6-8 knot) breeze. Making his move by gybing well inshore on the run up the eastern side of the island, he passed four J/44s to cement a fifth place finish, and the series. Mike Frigard's *LOOSE GOOSE*

(Marblehead, MA) was first around the island. Racing was cancelled on Friday because of heavy fog.

Bishop credits *GOLD DIGGER's* success to thorough preparation and an aggressive spring program, which included a second in class at Key West Race Week.

Last year's North American Champion, Pete du Pont's *GLORY*, was eighth overall.



*CHALLENGER* and *URANIA* fight for position at the start of the Marblehead to Halifax Race. Complete story on page 2. Photo by D. Rafuse

According to Chip Barber, J/44 Class Association Executive Director, the 1995 J/44 North American Championship was unique because it was the first time that the J/44 fleet sailed with Class Association owned

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