



Bella Mente Racing
Action-Packed 2015 Campaign Ahead

NEWPORT, R.I. (January 8, 2015) – While Olympic athletes put their skills to the test in snowy Sochi, [Bella Mente Racing's](#) 22 world-class sailors are warming up for their next big contest of the year, the RORC Caribbean 600. Last year in the 600-mile race, the team won IRC 0 and finished second overall for IRC, and this year all sights are set on not only the RORC Caribbean 600 Trophy but also the inaugural Bella Mente Trophy, which will be awarded to the first yacht (that is 100% manually powered) over the finish line in IRC. In its sixth edition, the distance race is already boasting a record number of entries and is scheduled to start Monday, February 24th off the island of Antigua.



Bella Mente Racing Owner/Driver Hap Fauth at the helm during the Copa del Rey MAPFRE 2014 in Palma de Mallorca (Photo Credit: Jesus Renedo)

It is “all systems go” for Bella Mente Racing this year as the team dives into another exciting sailing campaign aboard its namesake Maxi 72. With owner Hap Fauth (Minneapolis, Minn./Naples, Fla.) at the helm, Bella Mente and its team of 26 sailors will take on seven of the year’s most esteemed regattas, incorporating new crew talent and rig modifications into the program.

“We’ve made some significant changes to the core crew,” said Fauth, adding that Terry Hutchinson has signed on with Bella Mente Racing for the entire year and has brought with him renowned professional sailors Skip Baxter, Brian MacInnes, James Dagg and Jim Turner. “Terry has been the key ingredient for a number of very successful programs. He brings great discipline as well as a winning point of view. I speak for the team when I say we are very excited about the fresh perspective these sailors will bring to racing.”

Fauth, a business entrepreneur, runs a number of high-profile companies, and his management skills on the water closely resemble those in the boardroom. Last November, his success with Bella Mente Racing was recognized when the New York Yacht Club and Storm Trysail Club together presented him with the coveted John B. Thomson Award for campaign excellence.

“There are three very important components to running a campaign,” said Fauth. “First, you need to be continually working to build the strongest team. It’s more than just professional resumes; it’s about guys that have good chemistry together. Second, you have to have a well thought-out campaign each year, with objectives for each race and objectives for the whole season. Third is logistics management. Everything from plane tickets and room accommodations to onboard food provisioning needs to be completed in a regimented fashion.”

Bella Mente Racing took to the water in December to practice with the new team members and test out its new Southern Spars mast with C6 rigging by Composite Rigging. Racing will kick off next week in Florida with Quantum Key West Race Week. The team will then head to the Caribbean for the RORC Caribbean 600 in February and Les Voiles de St. Barth in April. From there, Bella Mente will be shipped to the United Kingdom where the team will take on the challenging waters of the Solent for the RYS International Bicentennial Regatta and Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week before starting the world-class Rolex Fastnet Race in August. Bella Mente Racing’s pinnacle event, the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup in Sardinia, will conclude the season in September.

More about Bella Mente Racing

The original Bella Mente Racing campaign kicked off in 2006 with Key West Race Week, and since then owner and skipper Hap Fauth has had two additional racing yachts in the program. Launched in Spring 2012, the current Bella Mente is a 72-foot Mini Maxi designed by judel/vrolijk yacht design and built by New England Boatworks.

For more information, visit <http://bellamenteracing.com/>. Follow the team on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).