



Courtesy photo

Sea Scouts, clockwise from back left, Kyle Brenneman, Dylan Hamill, Skipper George Kain, Brian Kurzik, John Washburn, Rob Dombach, Tim Mathews and Megan Morton will compete in the Bermuda Ocean Race aboard *Kuan Yin*.

BOR organizers hope to see scouts honored

Youngsters competing in premier ocean race event

By **BILL WAGNER**
Staff Writer

Organizers and fellow competitors will all be rooting for one particular entry in the Bermuda Ocean Race.

Everyone involved with the biennial voyage from Annapolis to St. George's is hoping *Kuan Yin* performs well.

That's because the 43-foot ketch is being crewed by youngsters from the Sea Scouts program, which provides leadership training and adventure through boating.

This marks the second time skipper George Kain has competed in the Bermuda Ocean Race with Sea Scouts. *Kuan Yin*, a Mason 43, did not finish the 2004 edition due to poor wind and time restrictions.

"We had to motor to Bermuda so the kids would not miss their flights home," he said. "Obviously, we want to complete the course this time. Last place or better still beats not finishing."

Kain has been involved with Sea Scouting since 2000 and is a huge supporter of the program, which was established in 1912. *Kuan Yin*, also known as Sea Scout Ship 25 out of York, completed the Marion-to-Bermuda Race in 2005 and was originally planning to enter Newport-to-Bermuda this summer.

Difficulties with obtaining a rating certificate for the aforementioned race led Kain back to Annapolis and the former Naval officer is anxious to get a second shot at conquering the Bermuda Ocean Race.

"It's a very challenging race because it's broken into two distinct sections. Last time, we did well getting out of the Chesapeake Bay, but we fell behind in the ocean," said Kain, who admittedly made a mistake by sailing a rhumb line course. "One of our goals is to do a better job of crossing

the Gulf Stream."

Stephen Alexander, another former Naval officer, will be aboard conducting celestial navigation. Kain will provide backup with electronic navigation and has installed better instruments for obtaining weather and current information.

John Washburn, a 16-year-old from Atlanta, has been involved with Sea Scouts for a couple years, but will make his offshore debut in Annapolis-to-Bermuda.

"This will be a real interesting experience. I'm really looking forward to the educational aspect," said Washburn, who has mostly been sailing Sunfish on Lake Lanier in Georgia.

Washburn got started with the Boy Scouts of America and joined Sea Scouts in order to challenge himself and broaden his horizons. He was hooked after a few events with Ship 22 out of Atlanta.

"I fell in love with sailing and now I can't get enough of it," he said.

Joanna Robinson, a 20-year-old from Silver Spring, is racing to Bermuda and helping with the return delivery as well. Brian Kurzik (14 of York, Pa.) and Robert Dombach (19 of Lancaster, Pa.) are the other Sea Scouts on the racing crew.

Dylan Hamill, 14, and Kyle Brenneman of York along with Megan Morton, 17, of West Chester, Pa., will help bring the boat back to her home port. Timothy Matthews, a 21-year-old former Sea Scout who lives in Arbutus, will be aboard as an adult leader.

"Sailing is a tremendous method for developing these young men and women," Kain said. "It gives them an opportunity to test themselves in an unforgiving environment. When things go wrong, you cannot hit the reset button like you would on a computer game."

Kain, a 57-year-old retired attorney, thoroughly enjoys working with the Sea Scouts and has high marks for their efforts aboard his boat.