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**A Spectacle at Sea and in the Air:
Newport Bucket Regatta to Feature WWII Airshow for the Public**

NEWPORT, R.I. (August 9, 2011) – A vintage WWII Airshow featuring the Texas Flying Legends will follow racing at the ninth annual Newport Bucket Regatta on Saturday, August 27 and Sunday, August 28. From 4:30 to 5 p.m. on each of those days, the Coast Guard will literally stop boat traffic off Fort Adams and Castle Hill as the public enjoys the spectacle. The Newport Bucket Airshow celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the Bucket Regattas (held in Newport and St. Barth's); it will feature six rare WWII vintage aircrafts including *Last Samurai*, one of only two Japanese Zeros still flying in the world; the FG-1D Corsair *Whistling Death*; the P-40K *Aleutian Tiger*; two P-51D Mustangs *Dakota Kid II* and *Little Horse*; and the Mitchell B-25 Bomber *Betty's Dream*.

"We're always trying to think outside the box and figure out how to make the Bucket Regattas exciting for participants and spectators," said Tim Laughridge, co-founder and director of the Newport Bucket Regatta. "In the past, the Bucket Regattas have been much more private events, and this year with the Texas Flying Legends making a debut in Newport, we can get the local community down to the waterfront and more involved than ever before."

The Newport Bucket is the sister regatta to the St. Barth's Bucket held each Spring and is known for a legendary combination of thrilling big-boat racing and memorable shore-side celebrations set in the spirit of the Corinthian ideal. With 20 yachts registered to compete in Newport – including J Boats *Velsheda* and *Ranger*, the 37 meter Dubois/Fitzroy *Moonbird*, 42 meter Frers/Royal Huisman *Hyperion* and 35 meter Fontaine/Holland Jachtbouw *Whisper* – the regatta will once again live up to its reputation for hosting some of the world's finest yachts afloat. Ironically, they are competing not for a fancy silver trophy but for bragging rights and a highly-sought-after tin bucket. The event is open to yachts over 100 feet LOA with the exception that those in the Demi Class can be 76 feet or over for 2011, in recognition of the earlier days in the regatta when the yachts competing were smaller.

A public viewing will be available at the Quonset Air Museum from noon to 7 p.m. both days of the Airshow and will include access to the planes and pilots along with a viewing of the launching (approximately 4 p.m.) and recovery (approximately 5 p.m.).

Best vantage points for spectators are Fort Adams, Castle Hill and Brenton Point State Park in Newport, R.I.; Fort Wetherill and Beavertail in Jamestown, R.I..

History of the Newport Bucket Regatta:

The first Bucket regatta was organized in Nantucket, Mass., in August, 1986. Between 1986 and 2001, the Nantucket Bucket flourished, becoming a premier Mega Yacht Regatta that invited owners and crews of the world's largest sailing yachts to sail to peak performance in a safe venue, in the spirit of wholesome competition. The concept of pursuit racing was brought to life by the Bucket, with each yacht assigned its own start time on a clear starting line for safety, and the start time calibrated to induce the yacht's speed handicap. Consequently, the first yacht to cross the finish line, wins. Following the announcement that 2001 was to be the last Nantucket Bucket, the founders passed the torch to the present Bucket Organizing Committee: Hank Halsted (Exeter, R.I.), Ian Craddock (Italy) and Timothy Laughridge (Newport, R.I.). The summer venue was shifted in 2002 to Newport, R.I., where the event has since been hosted by the Newport Shipyard.

For more information about the Newport Bucket and its loyal sponsors, visit <http://www.bucketregattas.com/newport/> or contact Peter Craig at peter@bucketregattas.com.

For more information about the Texas Flying Legends, visit www.flyingfreedom.us or contact Chris Griffith at chris@fighterhangar1.com.



P-40K Aleutian Tiger will be one of the six WWII vintage aircrafts flying in the Newport Bucket Airshow (photo credit Texas Flying Legend Museum)



Mitchell B-25 Bomber Betty's Dream leads the pack (photo credit Texas Flying Legend Museum)