

Corinthian Yacht Club's PUGET SOUND SAILING REGATTA



Corinthian Yacht Club launched buoy racing in the region with an exciting Puget Sound Spring Regatta. The regatta attracted 76 one-design and PHRF boats divided into 11 classes, with one design starts for J/109s, J105s, J35s, Melges 24s, San Juan 24s and small rating spreads for others. The weather forecast didn't look promising as the day began with a dock postponement, but then Saturday turned into a great day with the breeze filling to 6-10 out of the NW and oscillating. Finding the breeze and sailing in the favorable current paid off on Saturday. Sunday, a light southerly wind evaporated after a couple of races. Who did well depended on who got the light puffs, until the wind filled in from the north. Lots of short races meant that there was little time to recover from gear problems or or bad start. Racing was extremely tight with leads changing regularly.

Despite retiring after finishing for fouling *Jam* at the start of the 4th race, *Flash* won in Fleet P0. Steve Travis remarked "The wind strength was perfect for *Flash* - in very light air we all tend to stick together, and in heavier air *Roxanne* can use her speed downwind to catch

Above: "Jubilee", "Kahuna", "Teddy Bear", "Allegro Vivace and "Kahuna, bearing down on the mark.

Below: J/105's Erik Kristen's "Jubilee" ducks Robert Blaylock's USAWI".
Photos by Borrowed Light Images.

up whatever she lost upwind - so wind in the 8 to 12 knot range is perfect for *Flash*."

Second in class was *White Cloud* and co-owner Steven Johnson said, "In P00, *Roxanne*, *White Cloud*, *Tachyon*

and *Voodoo Child* went at it with lots of overlaps, crossings and close finishes. *Jam* was not in her element with light air and short courses, never getting to just rumble like she can. On Saturday, the courses were pretty much right side favored upwind and the right favored sailing downwind. On Sunday, *Jam* rolled over us at the start; we had to clear to the outside and then sailed into a hole on the first race run and we never recovered. After the northerly filled, with the course further offshore, the left hand side was paying on the opening beats, Making good starts — away from *Flash* — with a lane to the left was important."

Roxanne was one point ahead of *White Cloud* going into the last race but both *White Cloud* and *Voodoo Child* squeezed past her after the first weather mark. Greg Slynstad, after finishing third on *Roxanne* noted, "Through eight races and at least 25 mark roundings, we had flawless crew work with not a single mixup. On Saturday we had good boat speed and good starts with clear lanes away from the crowds, but *Flash* was in her zone. On Sunday, we didn't find the same clear lanes and our boat speed seemed off a bit."



Class P1 was a mix of sportboats and family cruisers. The class sailed very close without incident. John Hoag, on *Shrek* observed, "The new 1D35, *Kahuna*, came up and improved every race and will be a tough boat to beat. The always well sailed Melges 32 ran away with the class but at least *Shrek* and the rest of the class made them earn it. Derek Campbell's team is very sharp and made few mistakes."

Racing was tight in the J/109 Fleet with three boats getting first place finishes and leads changing regularly. On the first race of the day, on the downwind run, *Tantivy* was in the lead with *Illusionist* right behind them and the rest of the Fleet close by. *Tantivy* planned to jibe around the starting pin to avoid the restricted start line but called it short and had to jibe twice more. Meanwhile *Illusionist* stayed on starboard tack longer and used the opportunity to pull into the lead. Once *Illusionist* took the lead, she kept close track of *Tantivy* and never gave her a chance to pass. *Illusionist* kept it up, finishing with four firsts and a third on Saturday. During the last race of the day, *Illusionist* took a penalty in a protest against *J-Tripper*. The second place boat was a comfortable five points behind *Illusionist* in the standings, so Dave Maclean decided to take the penalty rather than risk getting thrown out in a protest hearing. *Illusionist* continued to sail well on Sunday and won the regatta.

While *Shada* had a slow start on Saturday, she had a great day on Sunday that helped her beat *J-Tripper* who was ahead in the morning standings. Owner Jerry Woodfield described one of his most exciting races, "I think the lead changed at least four times. We worked the left with just a little more pressure and finally got in front of the other 109s. Even after forcing *Tantivy* to tack, they came right back at us at the next crossing. We just squeaked a crossing by feet to hold the lead. They then got us at the windward mark as I got blanketed by the row of spinnakers coming back at us from the Fleet in front of us. On the downwind leg both *Tantivy* and *J-Tripper* found the wind and drove over us. Then the 180 degree wind shift switched from the south to the north. We rounded the leeward mark (by now it was a windward mark) in



Ken Chin's Olson 911 "*Kowloon*", Patrick Denney's J/29 "*Here & Now*" and Mel Marshel & Dan's Olson's S2 9.1 "*Rubicon*". Photo by Borrowed Light Images.

third. *Tantivy* and *J-Tripper* headed west, while we went east. We saw a little more pressure hold until we gybed back and could make the finish line. We came in fast on starboard. We passed *J-Tripper* to get back in second. Then it was a virtual tie at the finish, with *Tantivy* just a fraction ahead."

In the disappointingly small Fleet 3, *Declaration of Independence* (DoI) was matched against *Absolutely* and *Dos*, a Sierra 26. Charlie Macaulay said, "We had a great time trading tacks and

gybes with DoI and learned a lot. We will be a lot better for it in the next regatta – and I am sure they will be as well." During other periods *Dos* traded jibes with DoI.

The J-35, *The Boss*, got eight first place finishes against five other J-35s. Lisa Dodd, main trimmer on *The Boss* said, "We had to fight back from some mediocre starts, but we had great crew work. Wayne is a great driver who knows how to eke every bit of speed out of the boat. He's been driving that boat



Stuart Burnell's "*Tantivy*" jibes in front of the other J/109s: Ed Pinkham's "*Jeopardy*", Rick Nordquist's "*J-Tripper*", David Maclean's "*Illusionist*", and Jerry Woodfield's "*Shada*". Photo by Borrowed Light Images.



Michael Pearson's "Bifrost 3" and Jerry Diercks' "Delirium" duking it out in the ever tough J/105 Fleet. Photo by Borrowed Light Images.

since probably the mid 80's. His wife Diana is an ace at calling the laylines. She puts her legs out to help her gauge it. It's funny, but it works."

Money Shot did well in the J/105 Fleet, however, crewman Dan Westra said, "The first race on Sunday felt more like waterboarding. We did a great lee bow tack, but Mike started sailing low and tried to get us to ease the sails. Finally, the confusion became clear when we realized Mike was heading for the wrong mark." Mark Lincoln, who also raced on *Money Shot* concurred, "A lee bow is a terrible thing to waste."

Delirium, owned by CYC Fleet Captain, Jerry Diercks, won the last race which put her in third for the regatta ahead of *Bifrost* and *Jubilee*. Diercks said, "In the J/105 Fleet, the fight was for 2nd and 3rd place. *Last Tango* finally locked up second place after the 7th of 8 races this weekend with their 3rd bullet. At the first mark, *Delirium* found itself in an unusual position, the lead. *Delirium* kept the lead all the way and *Last Tango* did a great job of staying in front of *Bifrost 3*."

Fleet P6 featured a collision between *Marayui* and *What a Tripp?* *Marayui* came in at the windward mark with lots of speed and no rights inside *What a Tripp?* with whom she had no overlap. *Marayui* did a 720 to exonerate herself, but a few paint scrapes meant they went through the process of getting an official ruling from the protest committee.

Veloce took first with five firsts and two thirds, beating *What a Tripp?* by a single point.

On the south course, PRO, Kevin Cunningham, finished an impressive 12 races for the Melges 24 Fleet and ten for everyone else.

Racing was very competitive amongst the Melges 24s. The top spots were constantly in contention amongst the nine boats. At any given moment any boat could have won. Dan Kaseler finished in the top spot with five firsts. Matt McGregor who borrowed Jim

Caputo's boat *Elwood* finished second, said, "I think the scores show the tight racing battle between Dan Kaseler (my childhood sailing rival) and us as leads kept changing. We missed the first start which hurt in a no-throwout regatta. We had many lead changes and closely lumped finishes." *Fast Forward*, another borrowed boat, took third, with Darren Towe aboard giving Melges 24 racing a try. Despite most of the crew not having sailed one before, they put in a very respectable showing. "Doug Gordon and I split the driving and we had a great crew. Driving was challenging because the driver's handling the mainsheet, traveler and the backstay, unlike the Melges 32. But once we figured out the little stuff, it came down to tactics," Towe said.

Glen Klute on *Trophy Wife* explained, "We had two DNFs because we got a spinnaker halyard caught on the cap shroud and by the time we got it free we were last anyway, and then later we crossed through the start line thinking it wasn't restricted." He added, "On the eighth race, we went around the mark in a five boat pinwheel. We got pinched out and lost four boats in that rounding. The fleet was really tight with little separation between the first and last boats in the fleet."

Liesl Mordhorst, who often sails with *DoI*, drove the Melges 24 *Cool Beans*. She said, "I just started racing
...continued on page 66

J/35s: Rusty Lhamon's "Grace E" and Svein Ellingsen's "Bergen Viking." Photo by Borrowed Light Images.



'OHANA HARBOR COFFEE

PRESENTS

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with *Cool Beans* last fall and am enjoying a neat opportunity to drive. I am still learning the boat. It was exciting, close racing with a short start line and boats finishing simultaneously." *Cool Beans* caught a wind shift in a dying breeze and won the ninth race.

In Fleet 8, Tacoma brothers Mike and Brad Jones took home the win in an old Olson 30, *Sidewinder*. *Gaucha* has often been the fast boat in the slow Fleet, but for this regatta John Cahill agreed to try racing in a faster fleet to help even out the numbers in each fleet. He was curious to see how the boat would fare against a different group. He said he noticed that in less than ten knots of breeze the Olson 30 was hard to beat, but that in more than 10 knots *Gaucha* could sail well against the rest of the boats. "As the slow boat in the fleet, sailing in clear air becomes more challenging and that closes some tactical options," Cahill noted. He noticed *Sidewinder* favored the pin for every start and could really point, so *Gaucha* pushed for the pin, putting both boats over early.

In Fleet 9, the usual suspects raced competitively, with *Here and Now* finishing first in all but one race. *Kowloon* was second, a single point ahead of inconsistent *Wings*. Newcomer, the famous old Wylie 34, *Wylie Coyote*, now called *Ishtar*, came out to play. Owner Graeme Esary said, "We were slow. We knew we had water in the keel, but we are just now beginning to grasp how big a problem we have and how hard it could be to be competitive." Gary Harr said, "*Ishtar* always seemed to have perfectly trimmed sails, but they just didn't have the speed." Gary Harr, on *Here and Now*, said he worried about clearing *Kowloon* after he planned to pass in front of starboard tacker *Ishtar* and then duck below *Kowloon*, who was also on starboard because *Ishtar* tacked suddenly, closing the slot between them.

In the largest Fleet, with nine boats, *More Uff Da* came on strong Sunday to win the regatta. Second place finisher Harry Brown, on the J/24 *Mouse Trap*, said, "We were pretty even with the Moore 24's in those conditions and they had to give us time. We tried to sail in favorable current and most pressure, but on Sunday we missed out on a current push on the left and more breeze. *Uff Da* hit it perfectly. I continued to be

challenged off the line and that left us few options up wind. The next race was short and we were not able to separate. The last race we really worked to get into second after a being shut out at the boat on the start." *Sputnik* finished third.

Five San Juan 24s fought hard for first place. The entire Fleet arrived at marks as a pack and traded leads regularly. The one who came out first was *Snappy Tom*, owned by Gil Lund since 1972. With a new bottom and sails, the boat was prepared and outfitted with a crew that has sailed together for 17 years. *Snappy Tom* beat *Grauer Geist* by only a single point. Third place

Return was only two points behind *Grauer Geist*.

The race committee work was impressive by all accounts. Nancy Neudauer said, "The shifts made it tough to get a start off and keep courses square, but the RC cleverly set alternative marks in case it shifted." Dan Kaseler added, "In these parts, if you stay home every time there's a bad forecast, you stand to miss a lot of fun times. PSSR couldn't have illustrated this better. Despite a bleak forecast, we banged off 12 killer races."

by Wendy Hinman

North Course			
Pl	Boat	Type	Skiper
P00 Fleet			
1	Flash	OD48	Steven Travis
2	White Cloud	Cook12M	Steve Johnson
3	Roxanne	J-125	Greg Slyngstad
4	Voodoo Child	Farr39	Brian Duchin
5	Tachyon	Farr39	Shaun Breese
6	Jam	J-160	John Mcphail
P01 Fleet			
1	Banshee	Melges 32	Derek Campbell
2	Shrek	1D35	John Hoag
3	Tigger/DWS	FT 10M	Chris Winnard
4	Teddy Bear	Davi40	Gray Hawkin
5	Firecracker	FT 10M	John Anicker
6	Kahuna	1D35	John Leitzinger
7	Eye-Eye	J-90	David Cohen
dnc	Sachem	Petr44	William Buchan
dnc	Ballistic	Melges 32	Brad Cole
P02 Fleet			
1	Illusionist	J-109	David Maclean
2	Tantivy	J-109	Stuart Burnell
3	Shada	J-109	Jerry Woodfield
4	J-Tripper	J-109	Dack/Nordquist
5	Jeopardy	J-109	Ed Pinkham
P03 Fleet			
1	Dec Of Indep	Expr 37	Brian Watkins
2	Absolutely	G&S39	Charlie Macaulay
3	Dos	Sierra 26	Brad Butler
4	Zorra	C&C115	James Lowry
dnc	Elusive	C&C115	Jeff Whitney
P04 Fleet			
1	The Boss	J-35	Wayne Berge
2	Grace E	J-35	Brian White
3	Diversio	J-35	Roderic Deyo
4	Bergen Viking	J-35	Svein Ellingsen
dnc	Tahlequah	J-35	Donald Leighton
dnc	Taking Off	J-35	Russell Engbrecht
P05 Fleet			
1	Money Shot	J-105	Mike Schiltz
2	Last Tango	J-105	John Peterson
3	Delirium	J-105	Jerry Diercks
4	Bifrost 3	J-105	Michael Pearson
5	Jubilee	J-105	Erik Kristen
6	Allegro Vivace	J-105	Lorenzo Migliorini
7	Usawi	J-105	Robert Blaylock
8	Vanguard	J-105	James Collins
P06 Fleet			
1	Veloce	Bene1st	Carl Freund
2	What A Tripp	Petr37	Morgan / Yob
3	Wild Flower	J-35C	Tom Mitchell

4	Marayui	Bene36.7	Astolfo Rueda
5	The Black Knight	Bene1st	Mackenzie Skene
6	Andiamo	C&C34/36R	Jamie Reece
dnc	Different Drum	WauqCent	Charles Hill
dnc	Bird Of Prey		Amy Little
South Course			
P07 Fleet			
1	Pteron	Melges 24	Dan Kaseler
2	Elwood	Melges 24	Jim Caputo
3	Fast Forward	Melges24	Darrin Towe
4	Wiggle Room	Melges24	Chris Johnson
5	12happythoughts	Melges24	David Brede
6	Trophy Wife	Melges24	Glenn Klute
7	Goose N Duck	Melges24	Paul Bennett
8	Surfer Girl	Melges 24	Tom Reinertson
9	Cool Beans	Melges24	Brenda Stuntz
P08 Fleet			
1	Sidewinder	Olsn30	Mike/Brad Jones
2	Corvo	J-33	Tom Kerr
3	Gaucha	Ross 930	John Cahill
4	Lunch Box	Olson 30	Greg Larsen
5	Pegasus	Soverel 33	Allen Johnson
6	Wood N Wind	Perry	Roy Dunbar
7	Habit	Melges 20	Joe Williams
8	Seattle Sea Dog	Olson 30	Will Pirrie
P09			
1	Here & Now	J-29	Patrick Denney
2	Kowloon	Olson911	Ken Chin
3	Wings	J-29	Jim Moynihan
4	Tryst	Aphrodite 101	Stuart Farrell
5	Rubicon	S2 9.1	Melvyn Marshal
6	Ishtar	Wylie 34	Graeme Esarey
P10 Fleet			
1	More Uff Da	Moore 24	Ben Braden
2	Mouse Trap	J-24	Harry Brown
3	Sputnik	Moore 24	Stephen Bunnell
4	Invader	Tbird	Martin Godsil
5	Tuesday	Columbia 26	Bill Stange
6	Avalon	S27.9	Greg Siewert
7	Dance	Sant525	John Matlman
8	Mordacious	Moore24	Lisa Winterhalter
9	Freckle Madtom	Moore	Anthony Devita
dnc	Aozora	Tbird	John Monk
dnc	Falcon	Tbird	Sandy Pratt
dnc	Selchie	Tbird	Kwadwo Copeland
P11 Fleet			
1	Snappy Tom	SJ24	Gil Lund
2	Grauer Geist	SJ24	Kenneth Johnson
3	Return	SJ24	Mark Bradner
4	Manhattan Trans	SJ24	Michael Irish
5	Fancy	SJ24	John Schwab