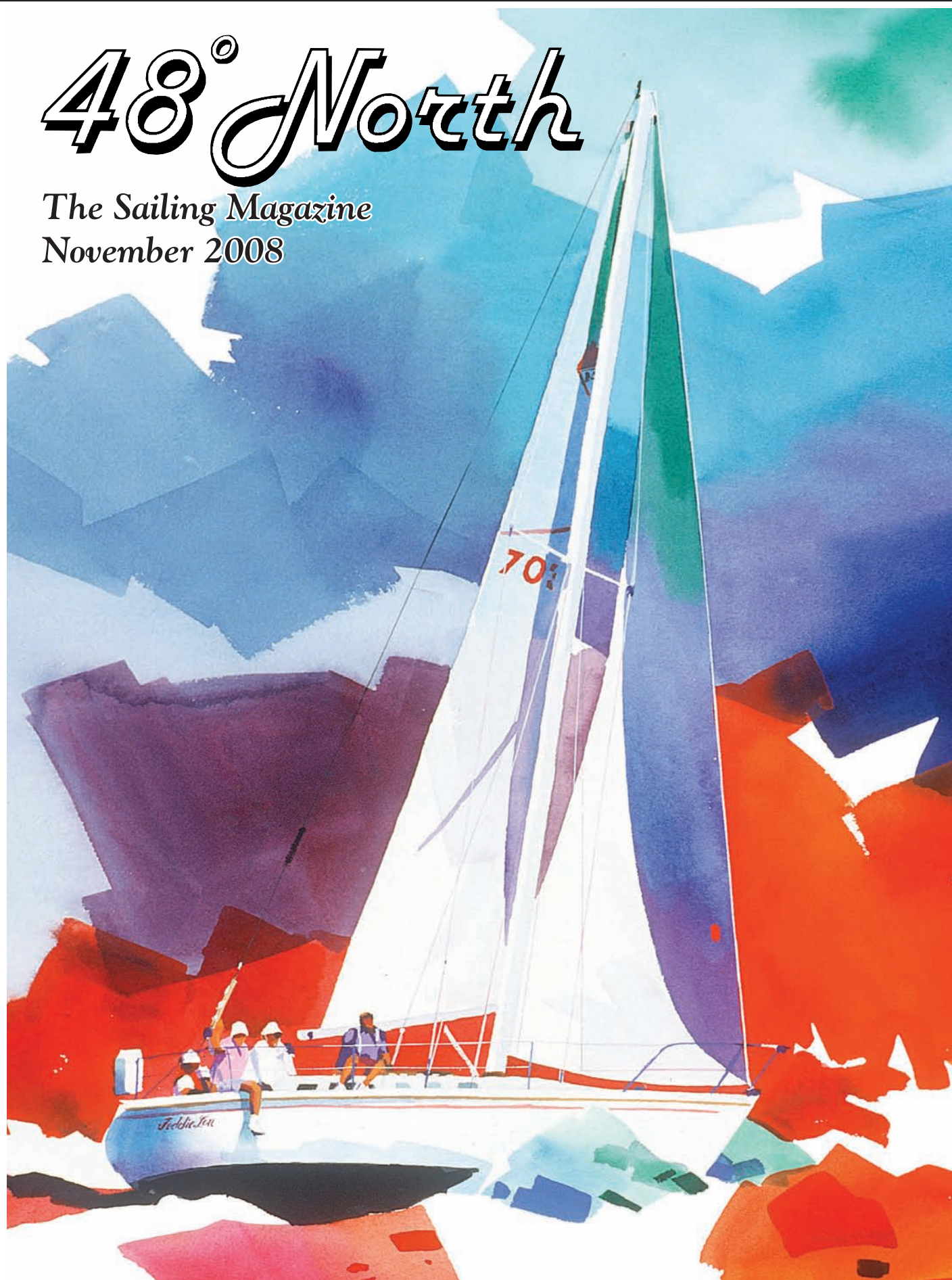


# 48° North

The Sailing Magazine  
November 2008





## Corinthian Yacht Club

With twelve boats racing, the  
Melges Fleet was the  
largest group at PSSC.  
Photo by Borrowed Light Images.



## Puget Sound Sailing Championship

Conditions came together  
for a regatta that far  
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expectations.

**P**uget Sound Sailing Championship caps Corinthian Yacht Club's 2008 sailing season. In contrast to the previous weekend's crash and burn in heavy air for the Foulweather Bluff and One Design Fleet Championships, winds were expected to be light for PSSC this year as they were last year. The evening before, a weather and tactics briefing, hosted by North Sails, suggested that it might be a good idea to get as many races as possible on Saturday because Sunday did not look promising. Fortunately, the forecast proved overly pessimistic. Adequate wind combined with skillful race committee work came together for a regatta that far exceeded anyone's expectations.



On the south course, Kevin Cunningham managed to give the Moore and Melges 24s 11 competitive races, and 10 for the rest of the fleets. On the north course where the wind was lighter, Charley Rathkopf completed 6 races for all fleets.

Racing was tight in fleet 1, with *Banshee*, *Wicked Wahine* and *Shrek* battling for first. Derek Campbell said, "Going out worked well all day Saturday. There was a lot of current and the flood continued longer along the eastern shore after it started ebbing in the middle. In the last race on Saturday, we were tied at the leeward mark. We saw a westerly shift and



Above: Melges 24's "Runnin' Blues" and "Electric Mayhem" heading downwind.

Center: San Juan 24's "Fancy" and "Snappy Tom" (first in class), about to round the mark.

Below: More San Juan 24's: "Grauer Geist" (second in class) and "Return" (third in class) sailing hard.

Photos by Borrowed Light Images



went out, which helped us win that race by nearly four minutes. On the first start Sunday we got blocked out and had to work hard to get back into the race, but managed to finish 2nd. *Wicked Wahine* pushed us hard, only two points behind us going into the last race, but we finished first." John Hoag said, "Saturday was a comedy of errors for *Shrek*. We were leading in race 2 only to hit the backstay of *Banshee* with our kite. In the last race Saturday we were in a strong position going right after rounding the leeward mark- it was the wrong decision for us as the big westerly shift hit. Amazingly we ended the day tied for first with *Banshee*. Sunday brought lighter breeze, and the Melges 32s found their conditions."

*continued on next page*





In fleet 2, *Declaration of Independence* barely beat *The Boss* on a tie breaker. At the end of Saturday, *The Boss* had 10 points while *DOI* had 13, after finishing 8th. *The Boss* had Jack Christiansen aboard suggesting subtle changes to sail trim, and the team sailed well, though an over early cost them. *Uno*, a Sierra sailed by Brad Butler, ghosted well in the light air, but despite several wins, two 8th place finishes on Saturday dropped her to third for the regatta. Brian Watkins noted, "It was pretty tricky sailing."

Fleet 3 had six flying tigers competing. With six bullets, *Team Dangerous When Striped* put it together with an impressive performance and were firing on all cylinders. Chris Winnard, of *Dangerous When Striped* said, "It was nice to have another streak of Tigers - streak being the word to describe a group of tigers!"

Five J/109s raced one design in Fleet 4. *Tantivy* took an early lead with two firsts followed by two seconds on Saturday. An early spinnaker takedown helped *Tantivy* pass *J-Tripper* when *J-Tripper* waited too long, wrapped her spinnaker around the jib sheets and got swept past the mark. *Shada* started off strong leading into the first two mark roundings. On the second to last leg, *Shada* crossed the restricted finish line, turning her second place position into a DNF. After starting late, *Illusionist* and *Jeopardy* trailed the top three boats to the first finish, but *Shada's* mistake gave *Illusionist* a third for that race. After finishing third again in the second race, *Illusionist's* great boat speed won the third and fourth race Saturday. At the end of Saturday, *Tantivy* had six points and *Illusionist* had eight. Sunday, *Tantivy* finished a point behind *Illusionist* in race one, which put pressure on *Tantivy*, because if *Illusionist* beat her by two points, *Illusionist* would win the regatta. *Jeopardy*, after sailing short of crew and doing a bit of shrimping Saturday, won the last race by a comfortable margin. *Tantivy* managed to finish just one boat behind *Illusionist* which tied the score. *Tantivy* won the tie breaker.

Dave Martin described fleet 5 racing: "Good starts were a must and shifty conditions made choosing the correct side of the course difficult. On the last race, *What a Tripp?* led the entire way until they overstood the final leeward mark and *Grafix* was able to get

PSSC- North Course								
PI	Boat	Type	Skipper					
P00 Fleet								
1	Braveheart	TP52	Charles Burnett					
2	Flash	OD48	Steve Travis					
3	Roxanne	J-125	Greg Slyngstad					
P01 Fleet								
1	Banshee	Melges32	Derek Campbell					
2	Wicked Wahine	Melges32	Darrin Towe					
3	Shrek	1D35	John Hoag					
4	White Cloud	Cook 12m	Johnson/Lynch					
5	Tachyon	Farr 39	Shaun Breese					
6	Jack Rabbit	Cm1200	Chester Hibbert					
7	Hooligan	Riptide35	John Rahn					
P02 Fleet								
1	Dec Of Indep	Expr 37	Brian Watkins					
2	The Boss	J-35	Wayne Berge					
3	Uno	Sierra26	Brad Butler					
4	Absolutely	G&S 39	Charlie Macaulay					
5	Time Bandit	J-120	Bob Brunius					
6	Dos	Sierra26	Paul Fagat					
7	Grace E	J-35	Joe Skipper					
8	Eye-Eye	J-90	David Cohen					
9	Diversion	J-35	Roderic Deyo					
10	Bergen Viking	J-35	Svein Ellingsen					
11	Schock Ther Schock	35	David Hilliard					
P03 Fleet								
1	Tigger/DWS	Flying Tiger	Chris Winnard					
2	Prowler	Flying Tiger	Kirk Leslie					
3	Tiger Lilly	Flying Tiger	Mark Mccuddy					
4	Rock On!!	Flying Tiger	S&S Burbank					
5	Firecracker	Flying Tiger	J. Anicker					
6	Sea Tiger	Flying Tiger	Peter Dunbar					
P04 Fleet								
1	Tantivy	J-109	Stuart Burnell					
2	Illusionist	J-109	David Maclean					
3	J-Tripper	J-109	Dack/Nordquist					
4	Shada	J-109	Jerry Woodfield					
5	Jeopardy	J-109	Ed Pinkham					
P05 Fleet								
1	Graflx	Soverel33	Gilbert/Martin					
2	What? A Tripp!	Petr 37	Gary Morgan					
3	Veloce	Bene First 36.7	Carl Freund					
4	Pegasus	Soverel33	Allen Johnson					
5	Marayui	Bene 36.7	Astolfo Rueda					
6	Corvo	J-33	Tom Kerr					
7	Different Drumr	Wauq40	Charles Hill					
8	Jollymon	J-33	Brendon Lombard					
P06 Fleet								
1	Money Shot	J-105	Mike Schiltz					
2	Jubilee	J-105	Erik Kristen					
3	Life Is Good	J-105	Bob Ross					
4	Last Tango	J-105	JP Peterson					
5	Bifrost 3	J-105	Michael Pearson					
6	Allegro Vivace	J-105	Lorenzo Migliorini					
7	Delirium	J-105	Jerry Diercks					
8	Panic	J-105	Chuck Stephens					
PSSC South Course								
PI	Boat	Type	Skipper					
P07 Fleet								
1	Pteron	Melges24	Dan Kaseler					
2	Lakeview	Melges24	M. Macgregor					
3	Trophy Wife	Melges24	Glenn Klute					
4	Tikanga	Melges24	David B Brede					
5	Fast Forward	Melges 24	Tad Fairbank					
6	Stretch	Melges24	Kevin Neal					
7	Teufi	Melges24	Jeff Vefnon					
8	Elwood	Melges24	Jim Caputo					
9	Cool Beans	Melges24	Brenda Stuntz					
10	Chaos	Melges24	Peter Graves					
11	Surfer Girl	Melges24	Tom Reinertson					
12	Wiggle Rm	Melges24	C. Johnson					
P08 Fleet								
1	Gaucha	Ross 930	John Cahill					
2	Here & Now	J-29	Patrick Denney					
3	Wings	J-29	Jim Moynihan					
4	Wild Flower	J-35c	Tom Mitchell					
5	Moose Unkn	C&C 35 111	J. Aitchison					
6	Wood N Wind	Perry	Roy Dunbar					
P09 Fleet								
1	Kowloon	Olson911	Ken Chin					
2	Flying Circus	S2 9.1	Eric Yaremko					
3	Tryst	Aphrodite 101	StuaRt Farrell					
4	Rubicon	S2 9.1	M. Marshel					
5	Rounder	J-30	Gardner/Adair					
6	French Kiss	Bene345	Patrick Nelson					
7	Outlaw	J-30	Derek Storm					
P10 Fleet								
1	More Uff Da	Moore24	Ben Braden					
2	Elec Mayhem	Moore24	Brian Petros					
3	Lowly Worm	Moore24	Andy Schwenk					
4	Sputnik	Moore24	Stephen Bunnell					
5	Mordacious	Moore24	L. Winterhalter					
6	Runnin' Blues	Moore 24	W. Gregory					
P11 Fleet								
2	Three Ring C	Olson 25	Nate Creitz					
3	Shenanigans	B-25	Scott Ellis					
4	Invader	Tbird	Marty Godsil					
5	Runner	Ranger26	Dan Randolph					
6	Smilin' Jack	Morgan27	John Wade					
7	Atom Ant	J-24	William Taylor					
P12 Fleet								
1	Snappy Tom	Sanj24	Gil Lund					
2	Grauer Geist	Sanj24	K. Johnson					
3	Return	Sanj24	Mark Bradner					
4	Malice	Sanj24	Susan C. Bogert					
5	Manhattan Trans	Sanj24	Michael Irish					
6	Fancy	Sanj24	John Schwab					

inside and finish first. *Grafix* did a 720 as *Veloce* cried foul at the leeward mark contending that they altered course to avoid a collision, but fortunately no contact was made. *Pegasus* had a rough go of it on Saturday missing one of the races when an out of sequence start occurred but got back on their game on Sunday to get two 3rd places and finished fourth in class overall." Gary Morgan on *What a Tripp?* joked with Chuck Skewes, who flew up from San Diego to sail with *Grafix*, that they tried hard to beat *Grafix*, but starting the first race four minutes late didn't help Morgan's cause.

J-105 racing was intense as ever. Mike Schiltz's *Money Shot* took almost all bullets, but an over early in the last race left him with a fourth. Eric Kristen on *Jubilee* finished second with twice as many points followed by the Seattle Sailing Club boat *Life is Good*.

On the south course, the race committee quickly set 3-4 mile races that lasted about an hour, with little time between races. Twelve Melges 24s (including some from Idaho and Bellingham) fought hard for the top spots. *Lakeview Mortgage* won seven of



"Rounder", "Kowloon", Rubicon", "French Kiss" and "Outlaw" battle it out in Fleet P09.

Photo by Borrowed Light Images

the eleven races but an RAF (retire after finish) and a surprising OCS cost them 19 points, giving Dan Kaseler's *Pteron* the regatta win. Dan Kaseler noted that, "Before the first race we scribbled, "NO THROWOUTS" on our cheat sheet. This affected our whole regatta strategy, and often led us to hold back and hedge our

bets. Consistency paid off in conditions that could be called aggravating at times. MacGreggor out-sailed us for most of the regatta, but a couple of unexpectedly large errors negated his nearly dominant string of firsts and seconds. Our consistency ultimately gave us the edge and the victory." Matt

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Above: Melges 32's "Banshee" (background) claims 1st place in Fleet P01 while "Wicked Wahine" (foreground) takes 2nd place. Right: The crew on "Kowloon" coming up on the windward mark. Photos by Borrowed Light Images

MacGregor concurred, "The no-throw out was a tough reminder that steady eddy was the way to go this weekend. I am very proud of my crew as we rarely missed a shift from north on Saturday and south on Sunday in our *long* twice around courses. I am very stoked on our speed and my crew - Keith Hammer and Jen Glass kept us in the best pressure both days."

*Trophy Wife* took third in the regatta, just winning a tie breaker over *Tikanga*, which *Team 12happythoughts* borrowed to compete in the regatta. Dave Brede said, "a couple of people from the fleet knew that my boat, *12happythoughts*, was in Annapolis awaiting the North American Championships in two weeks. Steve Stockbine and Matt MacGregor emailed me and said, "hey, come race; you have a boat to use. Then Tad Fairbank of *Fast Forward* loaned us a main sail and spinnaker. We used sail number 1520 (*Fast Forward* was 520), which we dubbed 'boat of the future' because the sail numbers currently max out at about 800." Several in the Melges fleet joked about the effects of Sea Madness.

Fleet P08 winner, John Cahill on *Gaucha*, said Sunday was tricky, with spotty breeze and different sides favored at different parts of the day. Gary Harr on *Here and Now* had a frustrating regatta, nearly missing every start. They were a minute off in one start, caught barging in another, and were quickly buried in the fleet when their mainsheet was too

loose. Six San Juan 24s raced one design with Gil Lund on *Snappy Tom* coming out on top. *Three Ring Circus* raced well with baby and dog aboard to finish second in P11.

John Adair on the J-30 *Rounder* stated that, "The seven boats in P09 battled for 10 races, with four boats picking up at least one bullet. Leads were never safe as boats changed positions constantly. With no worse than a third, Ken Chin on *Kowloon* was first, followed by *Flying Circus*. Four bullets gave *Tryst* the tie breaker for third." John also exclaimed, "A tip of the hat to the race committee for giving everyone a workout. You can eat lunch on Monday; this weekend we're racing!"

Ken Chin on *Kowloon* noted, "Good boat speed was key. *Kowloon* had great crew work. We had tough competition but we made few mistakes this time. It was amazing racing. I think the last time we got in this many races was 2003."

In the Moore 24 fleet, *More Uff Da* with all firsts and seconds and only one fourth place finish, concluded the regatta nine points ahead of Brian Petros' *Electric Mayhem*. *Lowly Worm* came in third. Ben Braden said, "Our class is

*"A tip of the hat to the race committee for giving everyone a workout. You can eat lunch on Monday; this weekend we're racing!"*

*— John Adair,  
J-30 "Rounder"*



getting tough, six boats came out but it seemed like at any point each boat had a chance at winning. Four different boats took a first and the winning boat only took four firsts. Saturday was an almost perfect day, if you ignore the race delay due to light winds. The winds came in out of the north, pushing some of us to #2s and 3s on one upwind leg. Sunday was fortunately stronger than forecast. Once again Kevin kept us moving and there was hardly enough time to BBQ between races!"

Most sailors finished tired, but content, commending the race committees for getting off so many competitive races in challenging conditions. John Cahill on *Gaucha* concluded, "It was like Whidbey Island Race Week crammed into a weekend."

*by Wendy Hinman*