

After 26 years, 14 of them under the guidance of Bob Ross, Gary Stuntz tackled the challenge of producing a Whidbey Island Race Week that was as good as it gets. Fifteen Melges 24s from Canada, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and California met at Race Week for their Pacific Coast Championships as did nine Moore 24s.

The J/105 fleet had eleven enthusiastic crews this year, including the reappearance of Gerald Hirschler of *Jaded*, who took 2007 off. Starting with an impressive roster of 120 boats and adding great live bands, the return of camping at the Navy Base and the

returned for his 25th year. Three all female crews competed at Race Week. Brenda Stuntz, campaigned her Melges 24, *Cool Beans*. Pat Nolan, who runs a sailing school in the British Virgin Islands, skippered J-30 *Diva*, with her sister and an international crew aboard. Stephanie Scwenck lead the spirited team aboard her Moore 24 *Lowly Worm* and entertained the fleet with costumes — dressing as hula dancers, roller derby girls, and cowgirls.

On Monday, after a slight delay, a westerly filled in Penn Cove, and the RC quickly set a start beginning with the J/105s and the Melges and Moore

marks, which cost them dearly. *Surfer Girl* missed the first two races Monday and *Traveling Circus* missed the second race Monday. Three boats in start P6, *Here and Now*, *Gaucha* and *Sylvania*, retired after finishing. In the J/105 fleet, *Panic* retired after finishing the second race.

Penn Cove's toilet bowl flush made hugging the north side of the cove pay. *Lawn Dart* and *Nunnehi* tried barging the committee boat to go right, but competitors refused to let them in. Several classes had over earlyies but most boats restarted. *Pteron* was over early on the third race on Monday, saddling them with an extra 15 points for the

regatta early on. Later a favored pin encouraged port tack starts but often that wasn't enough to counter the tides sweep on the right. *Symbiosis* port tacked the Performance 30 fleet, but couldn't manage to hold her competitors off for the rest of the race.

In fleet P0 finishes were surprisingly close in the third race of the day for such a disparate boat grouping of Melges 32s, ID 35s, and a Davidson 40. Brian Watkins, on *Declaration of Independence*, led most of the day and won both races while the rest of fleet P2 fought hard for second and third.

After failing to cleat the tack line, *Bifrost3* was "flying a large pennant off the top of the mast with a colorful green line flying out across the water behind," Janet Lazar recounted, "By the time we got the spinnaker sorted out and sailing, we had moved from the middle of the pack to dead last". She continued, "At the next mark, Kelly called great tactics and Rod stayed focused as we reached into the mark, tacked inside a cluster of 105's and sailed away making up about half the fleet and finishing a respectable fifth place". She noted "a bald eagle soared over the boats as we all headed into harbor", capping off a great day.

Uno, the Sierra 26 sailed by Paul Faget, capsized when a puff hit while they relaxed after racing and were



Navy BBQ at Crescent Harbor, plus a host of land activities and theme nights made for a recipe of weeklong fun. The Race Committee, headed by Charley Rothkopf, added a second finish boat to minimize waiting between finishes and restarts and added gates to keep racing interesting. Wind and sunny skies produced ideal racing conditions for most of the week, producing a Race Week that was hard to beat.

Sunday, Oak Harbor was busy with arriving boats and crews from far and wide, crews preparing boats and trailers, trucks and campers crowding the parking lot. One design fleets carefully noted crew weights for pure competition. Others motored hours through red tide affected waters in light winds. Don Wills

24s, catching a few by surprise. Every fleet finished at least two races and many finished three. The clouds burned off and wind and waves gradually built throughout the day. The Moores started with #1 jibs and then found themselves switching to #2's the second race then #3's during the third as the wind built to about 20 knots. As the wind came up, the Melges planed downwind.

By the end of the day many boats suffered gear damage and other embarrassments. *Ballistic* blew out the jib, causing them to miss the third start of the day. *Skye Rocket* had a frayed backstay after a port-starboard altercation with *Jabiru*. San Francisco Moore 24 *Flying Tiger*, sailed by Vaughan Peters, blew a spin halyard after one of the windward

unprepared with the jib in tight. Without chocks, when the boat heeled over quickly, the crew was caught by surprise and their combined weight on the low side pushed the boat right over. Fortunately a tender was nearby and they had a short ride back to the dock for showers and dry clothes.

Tuesday's weather produced a steady southerly and the RC set a course in Saratoga Passage. Skipper Stuart Burnell nearly missed racing on Tuesday, after rushing back from an early morning business meeting in Bellingham, only to get stuck behind a road block. Careful coordination garnered him a speedy ride to the race course where he joined his crew just before starting. John Gerity's ID 35 *Extreme* missed the first race on Tuesday after failing to leave the dock



Previous page: Close, yet fun racing in Fleet P06.

Top: The Melge Fleet: "Wiggle Room" and Goose & Duck

Center: Flying Tigers "Tiger Lilly", "Eye Eye".

Below: Matthew Gardner-Brown's "Dulcinea", Dave Brede's "12 Happy Thoughts" and Tad Fairbank's "Fast Forward".

Photos by Borrowed Light Images

in time. After worrying so long about being late, *Tantivy* was over early in that first race. A third of starters in P2 were also over early and most fleets had early starters. *Money Shot* took *Jubilee* over the line.

The best strategy proved to be sailing west outside of the flats off Long Point where a sunken boat warns of the off-lying danger, as Ben Braden's *More Uff Da* discovered after losing a halyard at the start of the downwind leg. The San Francisco Moore 24 *Flying Tiger*, sailed by Vaughan Peters, read the course wrong and finished at the wrong mark, giving them 10 points for that race.

Tuesday featured several kite bloopers. *Jabiru* hoisted her spinnaker sideways. *Aussie Rules* dropped the





Adam Korbin's "Astral Plane" takes second in Fleet P3.
Photo by Borrowed Light Images

spinnakerhalyard and flew her spinnaker like a kite, AC style. *Gardylloo* discovered that tossing a neon green spinnaker overboard was slow. J/30 *Diva* lost her backstay after the last race on Tuesday causing her to miss a race.

An exciting encounter between the J/33 *Corvo* and Perry 42 *Good as Gold*

kept *Corvo* from racing the final race and gave them a fiberglass project. On the last race Tuesday, *Jack Rabbit* was on the wrong side of an altercation and added a DSQ to her score. *Jaded* and *Life is Good* were both disqualified on the 2nd race as well. Chris White's J/80 *Crazy Ivan* missed the second race start.

Higher winds and bigger waves in Saratoga Passage were just what the Davidson 40 *Teddy Bear* excels in, and her two firsts and a second improved her chances in the regatta and put points between *Shrek* and *Wicked Wahine*.

A crew member from the J/30 *Jayhawk*, said he wasn't feeling well and requested someone take over so he could lay down. Shortly after racing, he was at the hospital scheduled for a quadruple bypass.

In the Melges, Andy Parker's *Mikey* led all the way to the finish after the weather mark. *Pteron* and *Fast Forward* followed closely behind, but 12 *Happy Thoughts* squeezed into second, pushing *Pteron* into third. Then 12 *Happy Thoughts* won the next race.

J/105 *Panic* was in 4th, but had a gate mark that the crew didn't realize. They went around the wrong way and fouled a boat. In the third race, *Panic* was

| Pl | Boat | Type | Skipper | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| P0 Fleet | | | | | | |
| 1 | Shrek | 1D 35 | John Hoag | 10 | Elusive | C&C 115 Jeff Whitney |
| 2 | Wicked Wahine | Melges 32 | Darrin Towe | 11 | Shada | J-109 J.A. Woodfield |
| 3 | Teddy Bear | Davidson 40 | Grey Hawken | 12 | Jabiru | J-35 Debby Cleveland |
| 4 | Ballistic | Melges 32 | Brad Cole | 13 | Avalanche | Express 37 Kely Penny |
| 5 | White Cloud | Cookson 12M | Lynch / Johnson | 14 | Bergen Viking | J-35 Svein Ellingsen |
| 6 | Anam Cara | J-122 | Tom Kelly | P3 Fleet | | |
| 7 | Jack Rabbit | CM1200 | Chester Hibbert | 1 | Veloce | First 36.7 Swackhamer / Freund |
| 8 | Lawndart | Santa Cruz 50 | Bill Allen | 2 | What? a Tripp! | Peterson 37 Gary Morgan |
| 9 | Radical Departure | 1D 35 | Andre Wojcieszek | 3 | Schussboomer | C&C 110 Tim Jackett |
| 10 | Extreme | 1D 35 | John Gerity | 4 | Shoot the Moon | Peterson 2 Ton Donald Wills |
| 11 | Minor Threat | 1D 35 | Jeff Janders | 5 | Corvo | J-33 Tom Kerr |
| 12 | Tinette | J-124 | Lynn Adkins | 6 | Zealot | J-33 Rafe Beswick |
| P1 Fleet | | | | | | |
| | Tigger / DWS | FT 10 | Chris Winnard | 7 | Pangaea | Baltic 39 Mac Madenwald |
| 2 | Prowler | FT 10 | Kirk Leslie | 8 | Skookumchuck | Baltic 37 Byron Skubi |
| 3 | Tiger Lilly | FT 10 | Mark McCuddy | 9 | Surt | C & C 41 Mike Sinclair |
| 4 | Eye Eye | J-90 | David Cohen | 10 | Good As Gold | Perry 42 Patrick Colletti |
| 5 | Dos | Sierra 26 | Paul Faget | P4 Fleet | | |
| 6 | Still Gladiator | Cheetah 30 | Eric Rimkus | 1 | Jaded | J-105 Gerald Hirschler |
| 7 | Uno | Sierra 26 | Brad Butler | 2 | Last Tango | J-105 John Peterson |
| 8 | Gardylloo | Henderson 30 | Eric Nelson | 3 | Jubilee | J-105 Erik Kristen |
| 9 | Psycho Duck | ESSE 850 | Kadar / Lagergren | 4 | Bifrost 3 | J-105 Michael Pearson |
| P2 Fleet | | | | | | |
| 1 | Dec of Indep | Express 37 | Brian Watkins | 5 | Money Shot | J-105 Mike Schiltz |
| 2 | Astral Plane | J-109 | Adam Korbin | 6 | Delirium | J-105 Jerry Diercks |
| 3 | Diva | J-109 | Jim Prentice | 7 | Panic | J-105 Chuck Stephens |
| 4 | Absolute Kaos | Dash 34x | Reigh North | 8 | Life is Good | J-105 Charles Asper |
| 5 | Tantivy | J-109 | Stuart Burnell | 9 | Allegro Vivace | J-105 Lorenzo Migliorini |
| 6 | Showtime | J-36 | Bob Mayfield | 10 | Sunday Ticket | J-105 Dan Scouler |
| 7 | The Boss | J-35 | Wayne Berge | 11 | Dulcinea | J-105 Matthew Gardner-Brown |
| 8 | Absolutely | 1 Ton | Charlie Macaulay | P5 Fleet | | |
| 9 | Jeopardy | J-109 | Ed Pinkham | 1 | Pteron | Melges 24 Dan Kaseler |
| | | | | 2 | Fast Forward | Melges 24 Tad Fairbank |
| | | | | 3 | 12happythoughts | Melges 24 Dave Brede |
| | | | | 4 | Trophy Wife | Melges 24 Glenn Klute |

results continued on page 82

Close racing in Penn Cove: "Teddy Bear", "Jack Rabbit", "Ballistic" and "Minor Threat".

Photo by Borrowed Light Images

over early but picked off boats to catch up significantly, though not enough race remained to recover. They were doing quite well in the last race Tuesday, but missed the finish. They thought they were going to the boat rather than to the alternate finish line and ducked the boat. By the time they realized their mistake, they lost four or five boats.

A windless Wednesday offered a break after 5 or 6 intense races. The RC jokingly set a mark ON the beach in response to a snide comment about mark placement the previous day. Boats rafted up at the Coupeville dock 10 and 12 boats deep. The lack of wind, plus the roller derby girls and race committee wandering in tropical attire and even a cowboy hat, added to the impression of a Duck Dodge theme night. Many ventured into Coupeville for beer and ice cream. The fleet kept entertained out on the water. *Here & Now* gave a crew member a spinnaker ride and then sent a crewman flying through the fleet complete with cape and helmet. *Absolutely* and *Schussboomer* carried riders on the end of their booms while Gary Stuntz repaired a sail on *Astral Plane*. Some even went swimming. Stan Stanley had a great time on *Lawn Dart* even though they didn't actually race. He said, "If they are that fun when they're not racing, they must be hilarious when they are." By 3:30 the RC cancelled the racing.

On Thursday, racers noticed boats sporting new names and decorations, a race week tradition. For example, *Declaration of Independence* became *Codependence*; *Minor Threat* evolved into *No Threat*, with additional lettering on the bow saying something like "It's a rental, you tack". *Gardylloo* turned into *Hard to Poo*. *Symbiosis* turned into *Psychosis*. *Myst*, dumping crew in the water at every docking, ought to have been renamed *Missed*, but that was a missed opportunity. The all female crew on *Lowly Worm* had a "Notice: No Boys" bumper sticker, with a clever universal symbol that was clear, though small. *More Uff Da* had a bumper sticker warning that "ear protection must be worn in the area." *Pendragon* had a sign that said,



"Canadian Crossing, eh?" *Mordacious* was renamed *Loquacious* and had a no pooping universal sign adhered to her transom, a funny reference to Lisa's dog. The hula dancers of Tuesday, turned roller derby girls of Wednesday were ParrotHeads on Thursday aboard *Lowly Worm*. Some think they had a hand in decorating.

The Moore 24s, Melges 24s and J/105s started first, sailing four races Thursday in ideal conditions. All fleets completed at least two good races. The RC set marks deep in Penn Cove. A wing mark off Coupeville offered photo opportunities to spectators, with boats jibing around that mark under sunny skies. Crowds lined the dock in front

Shilshole's stunning setting and convenient saltwater location make boating easy. It's close to home, close to work and makes for an easy escape. Get out on the water and savor the sunset over the Olympics.

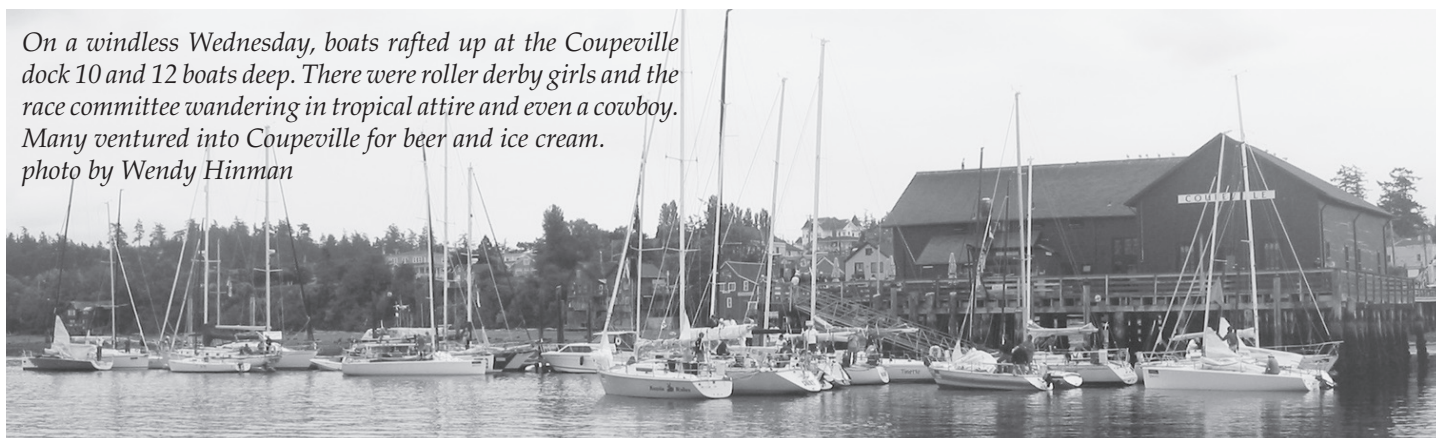
NEW SLIPS OPEN NOW!
Reserve yours today!

SHILSHOLE BAY MARINA



(206) 728-3006 • VHF 17 • www.portseattle.org

On a windless Wednesday, boats rafted up at the Coupeville dock 10 and 12 boats deep. There were roller derby girls and the race committee wandering in tropical attire and even a cowboy. Many ventured into Coupeville for beer and ice cream.
photo by Wendy Hinman



of the Red Barn to watch the action. Marks set near the beach made sailing the north side of the course pay off on a straight windward leeward race. Later in the day, as the tide changed, hugging the southern shore going downwind along Long and Snakelum Points proved the best strategy. The jibe mark and shifting tide offered opportunities to develop a comfortable lead and Kathryn Meyer's *More Cowbell* took it. So did Gary Morgan's Peterson 37 *What a Tripp!*. *Tantivy* finished 3 ½ minutes before J/109 *Diva*, giving *Tantivy* crew

hopes of placing in the top three for the regatta.

Shortly before a start, the Melges arrived en masse at their short leeward mark, set uncomfortably close to the committee boat. The RC wisely postponed starts until traffic abated. The RC worked hard to keep fleets from converging at the marks, setting gates and varying courses as best they could, but the interplay between the sailing speeds of different boats and course combinations was hard to predict and marks were still crowded as fleets

converged.

Protest flags were common. On the downwind leg shortly before the rounding, *Jeopardy* fouled *Tantivy*, and later withdrew from that race. At a tight mark rounding, *Shoot the Moon* fouled *Tantivy* and *Absolutely*, but failing to do penalty turns saw her second place finish turn into 11 points. Others like *Prowler*, *Cool Beans*, and *Gaucha* did penalty turns to exonerate themselves. The Seattle Sailing Club group on the J/105 *Life is Good*, driving it like a rental, fouled *Jaded* at the mark but exonerated

| Pl | Boat | Type | Skipper |
|----|------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 5 | Mikey | Melges 24 | Andy Parker |
| 6 | Nikita | Melges 24 | Paul/Kimberly Arntson |
| 7 | Myst | Melges 24 | Rod Buck |
| 8 | Wiggle Room | Melges 24 | Van Deventer & Johnson |
| 9 | Traveling Circus | Melges 24 | Kyle Hintze |
| 10 | Goose & Duck | Melges 24 | Paul Bennett |
| 11 | Cool Beans | Melges 24 | Brenda Stuntz |
| 12 | Teufi | Melges 24 | Jeff Vernon |
| 13 | Distraction | Melges 24 | Tom Greetham |
| 14 | Surfer Girl | Melges 24 | Tom Reinertson |

P6 Fleet

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Here & Now | J-29 | Pat Denny |
| 2 | Gaucha | Ross 930 | John Cahill |
| 3 | Sylvana | Andrews 28 | Ivan Ivandic |
| 4 | Black Ice | Olson 30 | David Cross |
| 5 | East Coast Blue's | Rocket 22 | Alan Barnes |
| 6 | Stranger | J-27 | Ian Sloan |
| 7 | Crazy Ivan | J-80 | Chris White |
| 8 | Opposition | Hummboldt 30 | Bill Sheldon |
| 9 | Go Fish | J-80 | Jerry Judd |
| 10 | Redfish Bluefish | Rocket 22 | Jonathan Little |
| 11 | SLU Trolley | Rocket 22 | Mike Mechaelis |
| 12 | Diavola | Rocket 22 | Andy McGregor |
| 13 | MSC | SB3 | Jeff Carson |
| 14 | Titan | Rocket 22 | Jeff Young |

P7 Fleet

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Bodacious | Beneteau 35 | J Rosenbach |
| 2 | Kowloon | Olson 911 | Ken Chin |
| 3 | Imzadi | Laser 28 | Doug Ullmer |
| 4 | Manta Ray | Olson 911 SE | Jonathan Reichhold |
| 5 | Rubicon | S2 9.1 | Mel Marshall Dan Olson |

| | | | |
|----|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 6 | Symbiosis | S2 9.1 | Lance Staughton |
| 7 | French Kiss | Beneteau | Pat Nelson |
| 8 | Jasmina | Santana 30/30 | Frank Rogers |
| 9 | Jayhawk | J-30 | Allen Roberts |
| 10 | Aussie Rules | Laser 28 | Dave Hayes |
| 11 | Diva | J-30 | Pam Nolan |
| 12 | Nunnehi | Olson 911 SE | Bruce Winfield |

P8 Fleet

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------|-------------------|
| 1 | More Uff Da | Moore 24 | Ben Braden |
| 2 | More Cowbell! | Moore 24 | Kathryn Meyer |
| 3 | Flying Tiger | Moore 24 | Vaughan Peters |
| 4 | Electric Mayhem | Moore 24 | Brian Petros |
| 5 | Lowly Worm | Moore 24 | Stephanie Schwenk |
| 6 | Pendragon | Moore 24 | Maurice Voisin |
| 7 | Runnin | Moore 24 | Wendell Gregory |
| 8 | Mordacious | Moore 24 | Lisa Winterhalter |
| 9 | Amore | Moore 24 | Ray Poorman |

P9 Fleet

| | | | |
|----|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1 | Dragonfly | Martin 241 | Karen Anderson |
| 2 | Shenanigans | B-25 | Scott Ellis |
| 3 | Hukilau | Olson 25 | Bob Ullmer |
| 4 | Hare Brained | Custom 24 | David Hickman |
| 5 | Ohana | Olson 25 | Bill Schafer |
| 6 | Runner | Ranger 26 | Dan Randolph |
| 7 | Slingshot | Ultimate 20 | Bob Miles |
| 8 | Skookum Too | Martin 241 | George Brown |
| 9 | Schockwave | Santana 525 | Kent Hardisty |
| 10 | Lucky Jim | J-24 | Jim McAlpine |
| 11 | Magic Juan | San Juan 24 | Shannon Buys |
| 12 | Skye Rocket | Merit 25 | William McKinnon |
| 13 | Toucan | Hunter 26.5 | Dennis Tanner |

herself. Melges 24 *Nikita* port tacked at the pin end forcing *Trophy Wife* to tack but generated no protest. Not every protest was filed at the conclusion of racing. Despite that, the protest committee had no shortage of cases to hear. *Money Shot* was disqualified in Thursday's first race.

The galson *Lowly Worm*, nicknamed Team Estrogen, were excited to win the first race Thursday. Their win mixed up the standings in the Moore 24 fleet as did *Electric Mayhem* when they retired after finishing that



first race.

The Andrews 28 *Sylvana*, with designer Alan Andrews aboard, took second and then won the second race of the day disrupting *Gaucha's* string of firsts. *Gaucha's* 5th, 4th and 7th place finishes Thursday killed her chances at the top spot. *Ballistic* celebrated her first win of the regatta in the second race and also did well in the other two races of the day, shaking memories of a less than stellar Tuesday. Chris Winnard drove his Flying Tiger to three firsts, making up for two disappointing races on Monday.

Friday, the RC again tucked marks into Penn Cove with a wing mark at Coupeville. The marks were not as close to the shore so current was less of a factor in the day's races. *Traveling Circus*, a Salt Lake based Melges was over early on the last race Friday as was *Minor Threat*, a costly mistake. *More Uff Da* and *More Cowbell* restarted after being over early, then duked it out the rest of the way around the course, with *More Uff Da* winning at the finish. After 11 races, *More Uff Da* had 16 points, *More Cowbell* had 25 and *Flying Tiger* had 30.

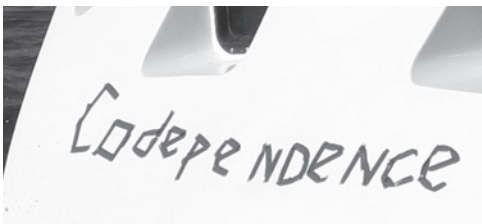
More Uff Da skipper Ben Braden, the new Pacific Coast Champion, was tossed in the water.

Three Flying Tigers took top spots in fleet 1, with Chris Winnard on *Tigger/Dangerous When Striped* finishing first.

MASTRAL PLANE

Shrek continued her consistently good sailing, always in the top three, securing her regatta win with a second place on Friday. *Veloce* took first in Friday's only race, giving her an impressive 10 points overall and making her worst race of the regatta a third, which she didn't even need to count. The second boat in the fleet was *What a Tripp!* with 23 points, and third was *Schussboomer* with 28. J/105 *Jaded* took her 7th win of the regatta, putting her a solid 20

points ahead of the second place boat, John Peterson's *Last Tango*. Throughout the week racers finished within 20 seconds of each other in the J/105 class. *Sylvana* took first in her race Friday.



Combined with her wins on Thursday, *Sylvana* was still unable to overcome the point lead that *Here and Now* had on her from Monday and Tuesday's races.

Here and Now won the regatta with nearly all second place finishes. Starting the regatta with 15 points from retiring that first race, didn't kill their chances, since the crew stayed focused. A seventh on Friday's race nearly cost the Beneteau 35 *Bodacious* the regatta, but strong scores earlier let her drop that race. *Bodacious* barely beat Ken Chin's *Kowloon* on a tie breaker.

Pteron's strong lead going into the day's races meant that a 5th and a 7th didn't hurt her chances at winning the Melges

24 Pacific Coast Championships. While 15 points from Tuesday's over early could have wrecked her chances at winning, consistent top finishes made up for it. *Fast Forward* and 12 *Happy Thoughts* were only two and four points behind in the final scores.

Dragonfly, a Martin 241 from Portland owned by Karen Anderson, took another first in

Friday's race. They finished the regatta with only nine points in a widely mixed fleet with a rating spread from 146 to 204. The next closest boat in their fleet, *Shenanigans*, a B-25 owned by Scott Ellis had 20 points for the regatta.

By all accounts this Race Week was a smashing success. Common names and sail numbers amongst the different fleets presented some scoring challenges and a computer meltdown meant that scores had to be recalculated, but the regatta

could hardly have been better. Chris Winnard had two of his long time crew fly up from Southern California for their first ever Whidbey Island

Race Week. He said they were very impressed with the event and had a great time. Darren Towe concluded, "It was a pretty good race week. I think Gary Stuntz brought some great energy to this event. He really listened to ideas and it worked out very well. It was great to have a start and finish boat to get more races off." Jerry Diercks of J/105 *Delirim* concurred, "We loved sailing shorter courses so that we got more races in each day. In a one design fleet that is as competitive as ours, the more starts we get, the closer and more exciting the racing."

by Wendy Hinman
photos this page also by Wendy Hinman

