

Seattle Yacht Club's

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# Grand Prix



Gary Morgan's  
"What? A Tripp" and  
Don Wills "Shoot the Moon"  
battling it out in Fleet 3.  
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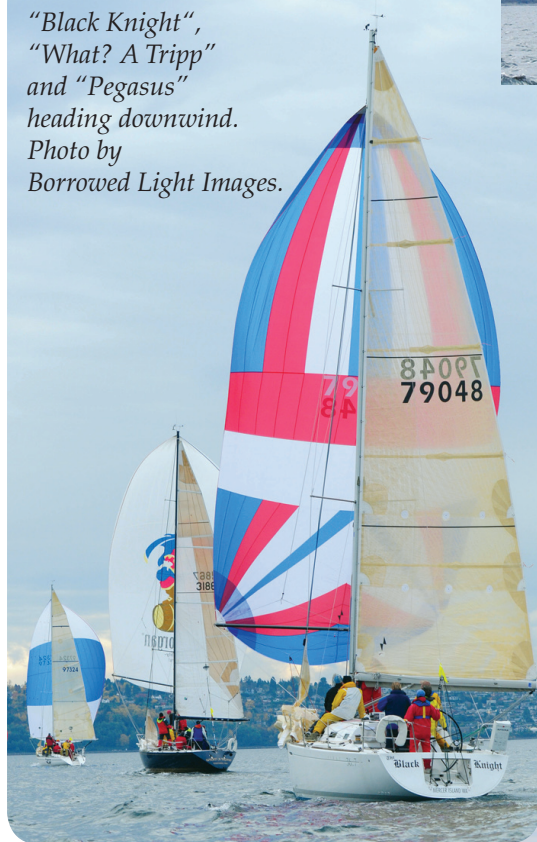
Seattle Yacht Club concludes the year's racing with an invitation only regatta for boats that have excelled in regional races throughout the year. SYC hosted Grand Prix in cooperation with Seattle's Corinthian Yacht Club to execute a competitive regatta despite challenging weather conditions. Sixty five boats in eight fleets participated in the weekend's events. Only J/105s and Melges 24s garnered one design starts, while the rest raced using a time on time corrected handicapping system.

A steady drizzle greeted racers as they left the dock Friday afternoon for a 1:30 pm start. The bright rainbow wigs worn by the Kowloon crew in honor of Halloween offered the only spot of color on a dreary gray day. A big log drifted menacingly near the committee boat, but gradually was swept north before the starts. The race committee set a long multiple windward leeward, a short starting line and began a starting sequence in a moderate southerly. The multihulls and big boat starts went off without incident, but most of Fleet 2 was over early and the race committee hoisted a well disguised second repeater pennant to indicate a general recall. A second start was successful. Seventeen boats in Fleet 3 fought bitterly for space on a very short start line, making for a comical situation. *Tantivy* had what the crew concluded was the worst start ever, and called it a "paper bag event". They got caught with no speed at the line a bit early as *J-Tripper* came up. Stuart Burnell struggled to avoid hitting anyone while he had no steerage and got rolled by every other boat to windward. *Tantivy* crawled back to 5th place by the end of the long course. Brian Watkins on *Declaration of Independence* noticed that the committee boat and pin were both crowded, but found clear air in the middle of the line. His good start helped him win the race.



The winds were a surprisingly steady 10-13 knots throughout the afternoon. Puffs of wind rolled across the course, with a higher concentration of wind along the eastern shore, particularly near the windward mark, set near the dip in the land off Carkeek park. On the second beat into the windward mark, *Diversion* on port tack failed to give adequate room while ducking *Zorra* and the BANG! was audible across the course. *Zorra* had just returned from being hauled out at the boatyard after hitting a rock at the Cowichan Bay regatta. After the incident, her entire port side aft of the cabin was crumpled.

*"Black Knight",  
"What? A Tripp"  
and "Pegasus"  
heading downwind.  
Photo by  
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Both boats immediately retired from racing. Rod and Mary Deyo said that their headstay was about 6 inches out of position.

Jerry Diercks who sails on J-105 *Delirium* said, "On Friday we were approaching a windward mark only to find ourselves in a position to do the limbo between *What? a Tripp!* and *Different Drummer*. *What? a Tripp!* lassoed her spinnaker halyard around *Different Drummer's* stern mounted radar mast. Knowing that they were both more interested in getting unattached from each other than getting out of our way, we quickly tacked since I didn't think



*Top: Fleet 2 - Bob Brunius' "Time Bandit", Gray Hawken's "Teddy Bear" and John Rahn's "Hooligan". Photo by borrowed Light Images*

*Center: The start of Fleet 3. Photo by Annie Anhalt.*

*Below: Multihulls - Jude Stoller's "Makika" (1st in class) and "Blue Lightning". Photo by Borrowed Light Images*







Ivan Ivandic's "Sylvana" and Jerry Woodfield's "Shada" cross tacks.  
Photo by Borrowed Light Images.

our backstay could bend backward enough to clear the fast approaching horizontal spinnaker." JP of *Last Tango* added "What? a Tripp! hooked their

Captain Morgan spinnaker onto the radar mast of *Different Drummer*. And then it filled. 'Don't go between them' my crew yelled."

Pl	Boat	Type	Skipper
<b>Fleet 0</b>			
1	Makika	F-25C Trimaran	Jude Stoller
2	Dragonfly	Formula 40 Cat	Pat McGarry
3	Blue Lightning	F-9R	Mark Gumley
<b>Fleet 1</b>			
1	Braveheart	TP-52	Charles Burnett
2	Roxanne	J-125	Robert King
3	Flash	OD-48	Steve Travis
<b>Fleet 2</b>			
1	Banshee	Melges 32	Derek Campbell
2	Tigger/DWSFlying Tiger 10M		C. Winnard
3	Wicked Wahine	Melges 32	Darrin Towe
4	Teddy Bear	Davidson 40	Gray Hawken
5	Shrek	1D-35	John Hoag
6	Time Bandit	J-120	Bob Brunius
7	Tachyon	Farr 39	Shaun Breese
8	Prowler	Flying Tiger 10M	Kirk Leslie
9	Jack Rabbit	CM 1200	Chester Hibbert
10	Hooligan	Riptide 35	John Rahn
11	Eye Eye	J-90	David Cohen
12	RockOn!!	Flying Tiger 10M	Scott Burbank
13	Uno	Sierra 26	Brad Butler
<b>Fleet 3</b>			
1	Dec of Indep	Express 37	Brian Watkins
2	Karma	Dash 34	Zig Burzycki
3	Veloce	Beneteau 1st 36.7	Carl Freund
4	Absolutely	G&S 39	Charlie Macaulay
5	Elusive	C&C115	Jeff Whitney
6	Shoot The Moon	Petr IOR 2T	Don Wills
7	What? A Tripp!	Petr 37	Gary Morgan
8	Grafix	Soverel 33	Dave Martin
9	J-Tripper	J-109	Rick Nordquist
10	Tantivy	J-109	Stuart Burnell
11	Shada	J-109	Jerry Woodfield
12	Sylvana	Andrews 28	Ivan Ivandic
13	Pegasus	Soverel 33	Al Johnson

14	Black Knight	Bene 1st 36.7	M. Skene
15	Diff Drummer	CENT 40	Charles Hill
16	Zorra	C&C115	Jim Lowry
16	Diversion	J-35	Rod Deyo
<b>4 Fleet</b>			
1	Money Shot	J-105	Mike Schiltz
2	Last Tango	J-105	John Peterson
3	Bifrost 3	J-105	Mike Pearson
4	Delirium	J-105	Jerry Diercks
5	Panic	J-105	Chuck Stephens
6	Usawi	J-105	Robert Blaylock
<b>5 Fleet</b>			
1	Tikanga	Melges 24	Dalton Bergan
2	Bacon Syn	Melges 24	Matt MacGregor
3	Trophy Wife	Melges 24	Glenn Klute
4	Fast Forward	Melges 24	Tad Fairbank
5	Elwood	Melges 24	Jim Caputo
6	Surfer Girl	Melges 24	Tom Reinertson
7	Cool Beans	Melges 24	Brenda Stuntz
8	Teuf	Melges 24	Jeff Vernon
<b>Fleet 6</b>			
1	Gaucha	Ross 930	John Cahill
2	Here & Now	J29M	Pat Denney
3	Kowloon	Olson 911	Ken Chin
4	Wildflower	J35c	Tom Mitchell
5	Moose Unknown	C&C35-III	John Aitchison
6	Freedom X	Tartan Ten	Alex Wigley
7	Corrida	Laser 28	Grant Osberg
8	Xiphius	Tartan 10	Karl Haflinger
<b>Fleet 7</b>			
1	Three Ring Circus	Olson 25	Nate Creitz
2	Ladybug	Peterson 30	Mark Brink
3	Runner	Ranger 26	Dan Randolph
4	Invader	T-Bird	Martin Godsil
5	Giant Slayer	Santa Cruz	David Garman
6	Lowly Worm	Moore 24	Andy Schwenk
7	Amoretto	Jeanneau	Marty Bower

As the afternoon wore on, the clouds lifted, drizzle ceased while the winds remained fairly steady. The sun burned through by the post race gathering.

Saturday brought a light northerly and rain. The race committee set a course for a windward leeward twice around in decent wind. During the race, the wind dropped to 0-3 knots. Joe James described the racing on *Tantivy*, "The first lap was a good race in a 10-12 knot wind. We were second to the windward mark behind *D of I*. A major shift at the end of the leeward leg let *Absolutely* round first. At the second weather mark, the wind was dying and we rounded with *Absolutely* and *D of I*. On the leeward leg, the wind died at the mark and then filled from behind allowing many opportunists to pass boats ahead. The final leg was sailed in next to no wind. *Absolutely* finished first, but *Karma* corrected to win the race. We finished 7th, just behind *D of I* who was 6th."

After finishing the race and bobbing around, it became evident that no more racing was possible and the RC concluded racing for the day at 2:30pm. *Absolutely*, after finishing second behind *Declaration of Independence* on Friday's race was sitting in first place for the regatta at the end of Saturday with only four points while *Declaration of Independence* had seven. *J-Tripper* crossed the line during the race and was scored DNF for the day. *Wicked Wahine's* forestay fell off in that race, forcing their retirement, though even with a DNF, they placed only a point out of second for the regatta.

Sunday featured blustery fall weather with rain and wind. Many racers assumed that the RC would run a single longer race on Sunday around Blakely Rocks as they've done in the past, but were pleasantly surprised to find an RC intent on fitting in as many races as possible. The RC managed to complete five races, giving everyone a workout. Heavy winds and short courses challenged everyone's boat handling abilities and the racing was littered with mishaps.

On an exciting leeward rounding, the Melges 24 *Elwood*, sailed by Jim Caputo, wiped out ON the mark, then hooked it and continued dragging it north (downwind) at over 10 knots while boats chased him trying to get around the moving mark. *Last Tango* and *Delirium*

were at the mark at the same time and watched a second Melges attempt to keep clear of the now sideways *Elwood* as her mast hit the water sideways. *Last Tango* gibed, forcing *Delirium* also to gibe. While *Last Tango* managed to pass the moving mark and the two Melgii with relatively minor difficulty, *Delirium* and the second Melges were forced to continue the trek towards Whidbey Island as the mark kept moving North attached to the sideways Melges. After *Elwood* finally freed herself from the mark, its anchor rode snapped back, returning to its more southerly station just in time for *Delirium's* nemesis *Bifrost 3* to reach it, round and pass them. After finishing just three seconds behind *Bifrost 3*, *Delirium's* crew wondered if that didn't qualify as outside assistance to *Bifrost 3*. Matt McGregor on the Melges 24 *Bacon Syndicate* said, "We personally lost two boats on this (and the regatta)."

Aboard *Tantivy*, the crew spectacularly wrapped the spinnaker around the forestay. By the time they retrieved the spinnaker, they were past the mark and had to beat back to it. Then in the second to last race *Tantivy* rounded up downwind, Foredeck Laura Wagner fell against the lifelines which broke and she ended up partially in the water. Fortunately she was pulled back aboard. With the broken lifeline, the crew decided to withdraw and call it a day. Steve Travis owner of the One Design 48 *Flash* said, "We broke a batten so had to come back in Sunday to change mains. We missed two races but got back out in time for the rain squall." John Atchison's C&C 35 *Moose Unknown* lost her spinnaker sheet near the mark and trailed her spinnaker like a pennant from the mast. Boats finishing and starting simultaneously in 20 knot winds during the 4th race made for some interesting situations. Jerry Diercks said, "On the last race we managed to catch enough shrimp for dinner and we broke our roller furler which meant we could not roll our jib or set our spinnaker because of a rat's nest of line around the furler. We were in last place anyway so we finished the race with white sails." *Here and Now* crash tacked to avoid Tom Mitchell's J-35C *Wildflower* in a very close call.

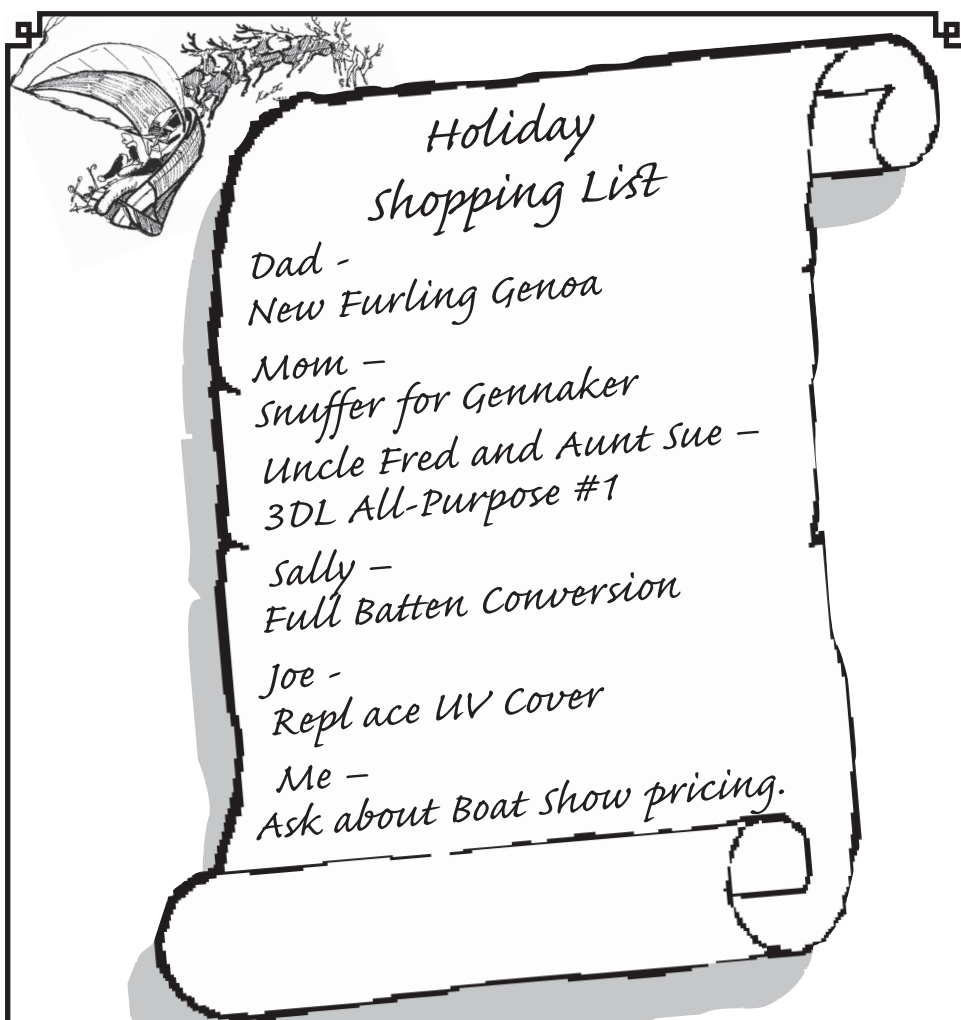
*Kowloon* rounded down twice and then rounded up. Ken Chin said, "We did as well as you can with dying wind

on the only race on Saturday. It was tough racing for us on Sunday, but with Eric Nelson's help, we survived two death-rolls (one followed immediately by a round up) some minor sail and equipment damage to win the tiebreaker for third in the series."

John Hoag noted that, "The race committee did a great job getting off a lot of races on Sunday. Although for the faster-rated boats, it was difficult to get enough time on the slower rated boats with such short courses." John Cahill on *Gaucha* won the regatta in Fleet 6 with nearly all first place finishes on Sunday

said, "We struggled in the light winds Friday and Saturday. We were 3/4 leg ahead on Saturday, but the wind filled in from behind and we went from an easy first to 5th. Sunday was about as much as we could handle with lots of short course racing, sail changes and crazy weather. It was great fun and a great cap to the season." Garry Harr who finished 7 points behind on *Here and Now* concurred, "After five races Sunday, everyone was tired. Our trimmers were especially worn out. The RC made us work for it."

by Wendy Hinman



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