

J-FEST 2008

"Still racing after all these years...."

Photo by Borrowed Light Images



25TH ANNIVERSARY

J/Fest has grown since it began 25 years ago with only 15-18 J/24s and J/30s. The 2008 J/Fest NW, 25th Anniversary, featured tight racing for eight fleets, 60 boats and 300 plus people. Racing started Friday afternoon with eight J/109s racing for the Pacific Northwest Championship. In 6 knots of shifty southerly breeze, 8 J/109's took turns at the lead. Bob Arney said "Friday's race was musical chairs and we were in front when the music stopped". The evening featured wine tasting from Longboard wines of California. Fine cheeses and fruit nibbles for competitors and kicked off the regatta for the rest of the fleets.

Racing conditions weren't any more satisfying for the J/24s, J/80s, J/30s, J/35s, J/105s, J/PHRF and J/Cruisers that joined the J/109s on Saturday. Light winds and record tides again made racing a challenge. The race committee started two races, but with the wind barely detectable, called the first race. Six out of 13 J/105's and half of the eight J/35s completed a shortened course before the time limit on a second attempt, but no other fleets could finish. Crews headed for the yacht club and an evening filled with dinner and generous door prizes.

Bob Ross gleefully bestowed goodies upon attendees, especially the "youths" who were just as delighted with their booty. He thanked the unsung heroes of racing: the crew.

Sunday was Father's Day and lots of fathers and children sailed together. J/122 *Grace* came out racing for the first time with the whole family. Erik and Stephanie Kristen had their boys aboard. *Dulcinea* had two daughters sailing with them, for the first time ever on a sailboat. *Sunday Ticket* had two nieces on board who also had not sailed before. Despite more indications of light winds, amidst bright sunshine, a 10 knot northerly filled in after about an hour delay. The race committee quickly fired off four races for the J/109s and J/35s and three races for the rest of the fleets. With barely a pause between finishing and starting another race, the intensity of Sunday's racing and the good sailing conditions made for a satisfying regatta.

Bob Arney said that in the J/109 fleet "The racing was very competitive with most boats having some kind of foul or protest, yet everyone did their penalty turns. The current was tough, and if you went the wrong way you were punished. We were tied with *Diva* after

three races, but then there was to be one more race. On the last race we both had our problems but we managed to stay in front of them." *It's Only Rock and Roll* beat Jim Prentice's *Diva* by two points on the last race making the crew the J/109 Pacific Northwest Champions.

The J/35s that failed to finish within the time limit Saturday and started Sunday with an extra nine points. *Jabiru* managed to overcome this handicap and take third for the regatta, winning on a tie breaker over *Fast Feather*. Rod Deyo's *Diversion* took first with seven points for the regatta, while Wayne Berge's *The Boss* finished second with nine. Ten J/24s battled for first with Mike Johnson's *Hot Pursuit* coming out on top over Hans Spiller's *Flying Monkey* in second and Bruce Sherman's *Eagle* in third. Pete Dorsey dominated the small J/80 fleet. *Rounder* finished first every race in the J/30 fleet. Brian Gardner and John Adair admitted to miscalculating the tide on the first race, but said "We have a great crew that hung in and battled back to win on the final leg. Looking back at the entire regatta, the thing that stands out are the people. Sponsors, organizers, CYC, crews, everything, it all comes down to good people."

The J/105s had 13 competitors, which Jon Weil, owner of *Sambal*, was pretty excited about, despite not doing as well as he had hoped. The J/105s that failed to finish within the time limit Saturday were saddled with 14 points for that first race. Racing, as ever, was tight in the 105 fleet and 14 points a lot to overcome. All of the top six boats for the regatta finished the Saturday race. The third J/105 start was hotly contested and several people were surprised the RC didn't call anyone over early. Mike Schiltz who won the J/105 fleet and overall said "The tides were extreme."

Chuck Asper, led the Seattle Sailing Club entry *Life is Good* to second for the regatta. He said "It is pretty neat to do so well on a club boat. We treat each event like a class and I am on the boat as coach and tactician. Many club members have no racing experience and have never sailed together. J-Fest conditions varied from race to race so it was really important to 'switch gears'. I like sailing in the 105 fleet because it is a lot like college sailing. All the boats are so close in speed so it is very tactical . . . you just have to have confidence in your ability to come back from a bad tactical decision or bad luck, and keep sailing hard." Finishing with all 3rds and 4ths



As usual, the competitiveness of the J/24s had them all bunched up.

Photo by Swee Lian Tan.

led them finish a point ahead of *Last Tango* and two points ahead of *Jubilee*.

Matthew Gardner-Brown, Skipper on the J/105 *Dulcinea* said "We mostly live at the back of the fleet, but we had a good regatta. We kidded that they kept calling the races whenever we were doing well, but we did manage to finish two races well. While doing well was great, racing with my daughter is what made it special."

Thank you to the generous sponsors: Sail Northwest, Longboard Vineyards, Fisheries Supply, B&G, Quantum Seattle, North Sails, J/Boats, Trident Funding, MJM Yachts, Selene Yacht Service, CSR Marine, Prism Graphics, Gill, Premier Marine, Seattle Sailing Club, and Pacific Maritime Title. And thank you to Bob Ross for making J-Fest such a success for the past twenty-five years.

by Wendy Hinman

PI Boat Sail # Skipper

P2 Fleet - J/109

1	It's Only R'nR	43	Arney
2	Diva	287	Prentice
3	Tantivy	248	Burnell
4	Jeopardy	161	Pinkham
5	J/Tripper	36	Dack/Nordquist
6	Pathfinder	106	Niccoli
7	Shada	44	Woodfield
8	Illusionist	309	Maclean

P4 Fleet - J/35

1	Diversion	97737	Deyo
2	The Boss	69112	Berge
3	Jabiru	29223	Whitfield/Chatham
4	Fast Feather	69532	Post
5	Bergen Viking	87552	Ellingsen
6	Flashback	28322	Rider
7	Pazzo	69258	Lindell
8	Phantom	97735	Osborne

P5 Fleet - J/105

1	Money Shot	617	Schiltz
2	Life Is Good	235	Seattle Sail. Club
3	Last Tango	212	Peterson
4	Jubilee	114	Kristen
5	Bifrost 3	582	Pearson
6	Dulcinea	174	Gardner-Brown
7	Allegro Vivace	89	Migliorini
8	Panic	482	Stephens
9	Delirium	272	Diercks
10	Sunday Ticket	519	Scouler
11	Usawi	475	Blaylock
12	Sambal	446	Weil
13	Vanguard	525	Collins

P6 Fleet - J/30

1	Rounder	463	Gardner/Adair
2	Celebration	491	Bottles
3	Jayhawk	359	Roberts

4	Outlaw	77108	Storm
5	Diva	69171	Nolan

P7 Fleet - J/80

1	Risky Business	257	Dorsey
2	Time & Tide	1005	Taylor
3	Taj Mahal	445	Schutte

P8 Fleet - J/24

1	Hot Pursuit	3747	Johnson
2	Flying Monkey	5358	Spiller
3	Eagle	1776	Sherman
4	Free Bowl of Soup	3837	Schenk
5	Hair of the Dog	674	Miller
6	Mouse Trap	4000	Brown
7	Rylah	4339	Mason
8	Jailbreak	2171	Volberding
9	Gator	3378	Nagle
10	California Girl	3960	Vickers
11	Djinn	3732	Moshiri

With 13 J/105s in attendance, racing was very close and very tactical. Photo by Swee Lian Tan.

