

## **CBYRA Annapolis Race Week – Monday, September 7, 2009**

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Turbo Duck went wire-to-wire to win the Farr 30 North American Championship while bowmovement rallied on the final day to capture the Catalina 27 National Championship, both of which were held in conjunction with the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Annapolis Race Week.

Turbo Duck won three of the initial four races to take control and led at the end of all three days of racing in topping a talent-laden, 12-boat fleet to garner its first North American crown. The father-son team of Bodo and Nick von der Wense, Pennsylvania residents who berth their boat in Annapolis, has been racing in the competitive class for a decade and called this one of their most satisfying victories.

"It was a case of great preparation followed by three days of great execution," Bodo von der Wense said as he proudly gripped the Irish Cup. "We have competed in numerous North Americans and never won. It's a great feeling to finally achieve that title."

Nick von der Wense called tactics for his father while former Rolex Yachtsman of the Year Jeff Linton (Tampa, Fla.) trimmed the jib and assisted with strategy as Turbo Duck got the gun in five of eight races to finish with a 10-point advantage over Moxie (Jim Allsopp, Annapolis).

"Nick and Jeff worked very well together. Nick brought his local knowledge of the conditions while Jeff provided his usual expertise in sail trim. Our crew work on the whole was brilliant."

Martin Casey Sr., and Jr., were equally thrilled to garner their first Catalina 27 National Championship in their first attempt. The Norfolk father-son duo raced PHRF for three years before getting the boat setup for one-design competition.

"This was a real tough fleet so it feels good to fight for three days and come out on top," said the younger Casey, who skippered bowmovement.

Swell, skippered by Pasadena resident John Anderson led the regatta up until the final race. However, Casey and the bowmovement team grabbed the bullet in Race 8 while Swell placed fourth – resulting in a three-point swing in the standings.

"We got a great start in the last race and I think Swell got shut out at the line," Casey said. "We were going to cover Swell, but once we realized we had clear air and a clean lane we just decided to sail our own race."

Martin Casey Sr., worked the mast for his son while Jarrett Casey trimmed the jib for his brother as bowmovement recovered from a seventh in the opening race by winning four of the next six starts. Brendan Drinkwater was tactician while Evan Harrell was bowman.

"We were not accustomed to the current coming off the Bay Bridge and understood some marks in that first race. We got things figured out and never made that mistake again," Martin Casey Jr., said. "We decided the best strategy was to go left toward the radio towers in every race. Going left was the answer."

Strong performances abounded at 2009 Annapolis Race Week, organized by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association with Garrett Cameron serving as overall chairman and Bobby Frey handling the on-water component for the fourth straight year.

On Fleet 1, Keith Mayes and his crew aboard Jubilee won five of seven races to capture the Beneteau 36.7 class while Kevin McNeil and the Nightshift team finished strong with bullets in four of the last six races to capture Farr 40 class, which was making its one-design debut at Annapolis Race Week.

Former St. Mary's College of Maryland All-American John Loe called tactics aboard Nightshift, one of four boats in the fleet to win a race during the three-week regatta. "It was great competition. Every boat had good sailors onboard so you had to stay on your toes," McNeil said. "We had good boat speed and John did a really good job. I put him in some tough situations with bad starts and he dug us out."

Wairere, the Thompson 30 skippered by Pete Hunter of Kill Devil Hills, N.C., repeated as PHRF A1 champ in impressive fashion – winning six of seven races with the lone blemish being a second. Annapolis resident Mike Buckley and New Zealand standout Adam Minoprio shared tactical duties aboard Wairere, which also captured class honors at the Screwpile Lighthouse Challenge and Southern Maryland Race Week.

"We have good boat preparation, good equipment, good sails and a good crew," said Hunter, who has owned the Thompson 30 since 2003. "The light conditions that prevailed this weekend favored our boat, but we sailed smart and didn't make mistakes."

John White has won Annapolis Race Week more times than he can remember and added another notch to his belt by topping PHRF A2 class aboard his unnamed and heavily modified Beneteau 10-meter. Co-owner Tom Ballard traveled from Iowa to work the pit aboard USA 999, which closed the regatta with four straight bullets. Fred Potts (main), Dave Lincoln (jib), Kevin White, Julie Winters, Mark Hempstead and Debbie Gosselin completed the crew.

"It all comes back to the people I have on the boat. All these people have sailed with me a ton over the years and they make my job easy," White said.

Randy and Dot Watson along with the rest of the crew aboard Windward were down in the mouth on Sunday night after losing a protest that resulted in a disqualification in Race 4. However, the Tracy's Landing couple did not allow that 11<sup>th</sup> place result spoil an otherwise strong regatta – rebounding with a pair of bullets on Monday to register a one-point victory over Remedy (Bert Carp) in PHRF A3.

North Sails-Chesapeake professional Jonathan Bartlett served as tactician on Monday for Randy Watson, who steered his Frers 36 to first or second place in six of the seven races. "We were determined to go out there (Monday) and finish business. We did just that, we pretty much smoked the fleet in both races," said Watson, who has won Annapolis Race Week three years in a row.

J/105 was the largest class in the regatta with 19 boats and Dr. Jim Konigsberg (Inigo) won a spirited duel with Denis Seynhaeve (Mopelia). Inigo trailed Mopelia by one point entering the last day so Konigsberg went into match race mode, beating Seynhaeve by six points in two races to swap positions in the final standings.

"We sailed very aggressively against Mopelia in the opening race on Monday then applied a loose cover in the last race," said Konigsberg, who had Paul Murphy calling tactics.

Rob Mairs and his family-based team on Puffinator rallied on the last day to overtake Angry Chameleon (Brian Robinson) and capture the J/80 class. Chris Mairs served as tactician for his father while his wife Tara worked the mast. Jim Fisher (trimmer) and Mark Tidgewell (foredeck) are other relatives on the crew of Puffinator, which opened with a fifth then placed first or second in the remaining six races.

Puffinator won both races on Monday to erase a three-point deficit to Angry Chameleon and win the regatta on tiebreaker.

"Our goals going in were to sail conservatively, minimize our mistakes, have fun and hopefully get a podium finish," said Mairs, in his second year racing a J/80 class after enjoying success in a Kirby 30 (Puffin) and J/29 (Mighty Puffin). "We did not expect to win as both Angry Chameleon and Dragonfly have been at the top of the fleet all year."

Alan Field came all the way from Los Angeles to compete in Annapolis Race Week and was rewarded with a victory in Melges 24 class. Former College of Charleston All-American Steve Hunt called tactics for Field, who won four of the initial five races to build a big lead then held off hard-charging Henry Filter (Wild Child).

"We started well and went the right way a lot," said Hunt, who gave credit to the coaching of multi-time Melges 24 champion Dave Ullman.

Arnold resident Brian Jones led the PHRF Sport Boat class from start to finish, winning five races and placing second in the three others. An Antrim 27 skippered by Tom French and an Esse 850 steered by Gerry Taylor could not keep pace with Problem Child, a Blue Collar 27 designed and built by Jones.

"We have a good boat and a good crew. We sailed well as a group and stayed out of trouble," said Jones, who won the Sport Boat class in 2008 when it debuted at Annapolis Race Week.

Jimmy Praley steered while his uncle Mike Praley trimmed the main as Upchuck overcame a couple penalties to capture the Cal 25 class. Victories in both races on Monday enabled to overtake Zephyr (David Hoyt) in the final standings and earn its first win at Annapolis Race Week.

"Our goal was to stay out of the current and stay in the breeze. It was tough because the tide was running hard and there were a lot of phases to the wind," Mike Praley said.

Perhaps the most impressive performance at Annapolis Race Week was put forth by A Parent Tripp, co-owned by Brett Harrison and John Yeigh. Harrison steered and Yeigh called tactics as the Tripp 26 won all eight races en route to a runaway victory in PHRF B class.

"I've been racing more than 40 years and this is the first time I've ever been on a boat that won every race of a major regatta. We are very humbled to do so well," Yeigh said. "Obviously, it's just a fantastic feeling for the entire crew. Everything just came together. We had new sails, a great crew and going left in every race paid off."

The PHRF Non-Spinnaker fleet sailed distance races around government marks for the third straight year and all participating skippers came away pleased with that format. Robert Yoho sailed his Beneteau 36.7 Kolohe Anakalia to victory, winning one race and placing second in the two others to nip Coyote (Richard Griner).

"I give all the credit to my tactician Dan Porter for pointing us in the right direction. When he says jump, I say how high. I don't question anything Dan says," said Yoho, who informs that Kolohe is a Hawaiian term for naughty and mischievous.

Top three overall place winners at 2009 Annapolis Race Week received mounted half-model hulls, a change that thrilled skippers. "We felt that giving out unique awards was one way we could upgrade the regatta. We are constantly working to make Annapolis Race Week bigger and better," said Cameron, who is the current CBYRA vice president. "We got a lot of great comments from the racers and that is who we care about. If the sailors are happy, all of us involved with organizing the regatta are happy."