

The Race Course: Close to the End of the Season

Inverness Yacht Club hosted its unofficial Club boat, the Flying Scot, to a district regatta on August 11 and 12 and invited the Flying Dutchman class to participate in a series of races that put skippers and crew to about as much on-the-edge sailing as any of them could wish for.

Six Dutchman flew around the course in the first start for each race, followed by eleven Scots flying more color in their spinnakers than you'll see in a long time on the Bay. We've written what a beautiful boat Mike Meszaros has made, and his was joined by five more of those bright work and glossy paint beauties. We know that some of those boats are so loved by their owners that the boat sits on a custom trailer to hold the shape, almost contradicted by the fact that the mast can be raked back four feet to go to weather—surely something that would bend the boat itself. The Dutchman has so much aspect that it will plane going to weather. (That means, when the boat is going into the wind, the sails are so large, the boat so light and flat on the water, that it will reach itself up on the wave it creates and approach its maximum or hull speed.) Few sailboats will be that fast.

Maybe too fast, because of the six that started out, by the end of the two days of racing, the visitors had experienced so many knock overs that only three were able to make it through to the very end, and our own Mike Meszaros swept the series for a first. Congratulations, Mike.

Among the Scots, we were happy to see Tim Griffiths out there. Tim was a junior sailing instructor, and we saw that he hasn't lost any of that skill. Boxed in, trying to leave a crowded dock, he threaded the Griffiths boat through what could have been bumper-car city. Too bad he didn't get back on the course the second day. The Ackleys, father and son, got theirs out the first day, too. For not much time on a Scot, they showed skill and could have been trouble. The Lassetters joined a certain club. Kind of a survival society. Not that it's something to want to join, just a fact of sailing. So they didn't get out the second day, but if they would have, trouble.

Racing is addictive, and those really in its hold were Cardwell, Congdon, Desenberg, Gay, Fife, Lassetter, LeMieuxs and the juniors, Phelan and Severson. Fife, you say? Doesn't he have a 110? Yeah, but he took a Scot out the first day, didn't sail the second and if he'd have returned, there'd have been trouble because he was kicking booty. The juniors were kicking it, also, impressive at how they were able to feather and scallop their boat in that gusty air and cover their competitors. They traded the helm among themselves, and, damn! They were competitive and probably their combined age wouldn't equal that of an adult they were sailing against. Give them a tricked out boat, and trouble.

The real trouble was Desenberg, Gay, Phelan, Congdon and Cardwell, mixing it up out there, and given five races, the outcome was never an easy bet. According to Win Black and the Calhouns, our starters on Saturday, the finish on some races were bam, bam, bam. If John Phelan hadn't taken a second in the last race, if Desenberg would have gone to the east in that one race, if Congdon hadn't taken a knock over in a race, if Phelan didn't get covered, if, if, if...

But there's no 'ifs' in the sport. Either it's done or it's not done. The doing, you'll need to ask them about. We can report that the top four boats were always ahead of the fleet and they had their own competition among themselves. Sailing about as good as it gets. Congratulations to Robert Cardwell and his crew Jim Noble for first place, to Charles Gay and his son, Forrest for second, to John Phelan and his for third, and to Kim Desenberg and entourage for fourth.

Mike Meszaros not only raced, he did a barbeque and together with Jan, Tom and Barbara Brock, they made a dinner that was most delicious, graciously followed by Jan Brock's salmon, cream cheese on toast platters the next morning. At the end of each day, more tired and beat up sailors were happy to have a clean, well lighted place for showering and hanging around, and for that, we thank our House Chair. Emile and Loren watched over the regatta, pulled more boats up than they bargained for, and for that, we thank them, a valuable asset to our Club. They were all over it, and had they raced, real trouble on the course.

