



# Quissett Sailors Wrap Up Series And Hope That Hurricane Earl Stays Out To Sea

By JANET BURT CHALMERS

Friday, September 3, 2010

Quissett racers came out in force last week to wrap up the Wednesday, Saturday and Junior series. Conditions varied from a hat full of wind to nary a breath.

Old Mother West Wind gave her Merry Little Breezes a time out Wednesday evening deciding that the moment was right for her to blow 15-18 knots from the northwest, kicking up Buzzards Bay enough to challenge the twilight series racers with wet and sometimes wild conditions. With no lee to calm the seas, the waves and troughs were big and the hardy sailors had a short but lively time of it beating out to mark D to the northwest of the harbor, running to mark E off the Knob beach, and beating back to the finish. The salty folks who love a wet beat got their wish after suffering the week before drifting in the “heavy calm.”



Old Mother West Wind was back in charge Wednesday afternoon providing a wet and wild northwesterly wind and sloppy seas as the venue for the final Quissett Yacht Club twilight series race of the season. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

David Burt and Alec Lengyel got off to a great start in Tag Along with Mort Saunders and Charlotte Dorris in Found It just to leeward and astern. Mort, who's used to leading the fleet more often than not, had his work cut out for him with the old salt covering his every move. After a drenching slog to mark D two masters of the wet beat were one and two at the mark, closely followed by Mike Fenlon and Waterlilies' champ Elizabeth Clark in Buttercup, Ancient Mariner Kathy Cooper and husband Doug in True Blue, and Wednesday series leader and lover of flat seas Ali Rodin and brother Steve Chalmers in Sea Breeze. Spinnakers shot up and the galloping fleet took off towards the harbor mouth with Tag Along rounding E just ahead of Found It and Sea Breeze. On the short beat to the finish Mort had no chance of breaking David's cover. Kathy Cooper moved into third place at the expense of Ali Rodin who fell way back doing a 720 penalty after trying to cross True Blue on port tack. Mike and Elizabeth finished fourth, just ahead of Bill Armstrong and son George in Adajio. Ali's seventh-place finish and Mike Garfield's absence didn't change their standings at the top of the Wednesday series, however; they took first and second place respectively, and Ali won season honors as well.

## Clear September Blue

Saturday's sky was that spectacular clear September blue which those of us who live here year-round look forward to and consider our thanks for putting up with sharing our world with summer visitors. The wind was still northwest but had softened to 8-10 knots, and there was a hint of westerly in occasional shifts that suggested changes to come. With a doubleheader scheduled for the Herreshoff 12½ footers, the RC sent the three Herreshoff S Boats to mid-channel mark V to keep them clear of the 12½ footers' finish and second start. It was a long course, but the RC figured it offered a delightful way to spend an end-of-summer afternoon. Alan Haigh and Doug Jones in Volante crossed Radiant and Coyote's bows with an excellent port-tack start and set off to the west in a tightly-grouped threesome on their three-mile beat.

Twelve Herreshoff 12½ footers crowded the line, their crews champing at the bit to get underway on the DE course. Not really used to sailing to the northwest, the sailors sniffed their ways looking for the best route. The fleet fanned out

with Commodore Mort Saunders and Elizabeth Clark playing the headers successfully up the middle, arriving at mark D just ahead of Chuck First and Julia and Olivia Lord in Allie Rose, Bill and Bill Armstrong in Adajio and Tommy and Olivia First in Olivia. Tommy and Olivia took the direct route to mark E, overtaking the leaders who ran down the southwesterly side of the course. Chuck and the twins rounded second, followed by Mort and Elizabeth and then Charlotte and Weatherly Dorris in Pani Baba. The short beat to the finish featured a westerly wind shift and more place changes. Bill and Bill played the shift and put Adajio into overdrive to take the bullet, followed by Found It, Allie Rose, Olivia and Pani Baba.

### **Anchor Problems**

With the S Boats bearing down on the QYC start/finish area, the RC scrambled to start the 12½ footer's second race. The short I course (windward-leeward-windward) posted and the starting sequence well underway, the lurking westerly took over, cranking the wind all the way around to southwesterly. Up went the answering pennant signalling a delay, up came the anchor, over went Cornelia Carey to set a new starting line, and out went the anchor and chain, much too much chain. After a lot of scrambling on the foredeck of Miss Carey the RC gained control and set a course to mark A off Woods Hole's Stony Beach and finally got the fleet underway. Bill Armstrong and Charlotte Dorris got great starts.

Meanwhile, the S Boats were reaching past the committee boat toward mark E on the new southwesterly. The RC hauled the anchor and reset the line for the S Boat finish, but this time tried to put out a minimal amount of chain to avoid another run-away. Well, the finish line got longer and longer as Cornelia Carey dragged to the northeast and the S Boats approached from the southeast. No matter. Doug, Kathy and Matty Cooper crossed first in Radiant followed 30 seconds later by Eric, Sia and Christos Karplus in Coyote, and another 45 seconds later by Alan Haigh and Doug Jones in Volante. Though Alan finished last in this race his two firsts and a third in Volante earned Volante first place in the August series, beating Doug and Kathy Cooper's Radiant on a tie-breaker. Coyote, sailed by owner Jeffrey Keith in July and Eric Karplus in August, won season honors

Back in the Herreshoff race it looked as though Charlotte Dorris was doing a horizon job riding a southerly lift to mark A until the wind pooped out for her giving Mort Saunders and Bob Suitor chances to reach the mark first. The commodore edged by in Found It, followed by Bob Suitor and Chris Olsen in Will O' The Wisp, Bill and Bill in Adajio and Charlotte and Weatherly in Pani Baba. The spinnaker run to the finish was an exciting one, won with a six-second margin by Mort and Elizabeth in Found It ahead of Bob and Chris in Will O' The Wisp. Charlotte and Weatherly took third in Pani Baba, followed by a photo finish by Bill and Bill in Adajio two seconds ahead of Julia Lord, Chuck First and Olivia Lord in Allie Rose.

Commodore Saunders' excellent showing in the doubleheader comfortably earned Found It first place in the August Saturday Series with two firsts, a second and a third for seven points in the six-race series. Steve Chalmers' doubleheader results, on the other hand, were his throwouts; he earned second place in the series for Sea Breeze with a first, a second, a fourth and a sixth for 13 points. Found It won the season series with 18 points.

### **Nary A Breath Of Air**

Five crews of juniors accepted a tow to the starting area Sunday morning and waited patiently in the blazing sunshine for some kind of wind to offer them a chance to sail their final Junior series Herreshoff race, but not even the Merry Little Breezes were tempted to come out to play. After a half-hour delay, the RC raised the N flag signaling cancellation and offered the juniors tows back to their moorings. Kudos to would-be racers Hannah and Noah Garfield in Handoah, Nicholas and Rebecca Hunnewell in Tag Along, Olivia and Kristan First in Olivia, Emma and Ben Garfield and Jessica Hunnewell in Phoenix, and George and Bill Armstrong in Adajio. And kudos to Maya and Leela Phillips and their mother Sudha Reddy who came out to help run the race aboard Cornelia Carey.

With the four-race Junior series shortened to three races, those who sailed two of the three races qualified for prizes. Olivia First won first place with her first and second for three points; Nicholas Hunnewell took second on a tie-breaker with his first and third for four points; Emma Garfield earned third place with two seconds for four points, and Charlie

Chalmers took fourth place with a first and a fourth for five points. Others qualifying were Hannah Garfield, Weatherly Saunders and Sara Brakeman. Good job!

As I finish writing this report (on Wednesday morning) my eyes are on the weather forecast. By press time Friday Hurricane Earl will be upon us or heading "safely out to sea." I can only hope that he will pass far to the east of Cape Cod and other shoreline communities, not adversely affecting anyone. Though it doesn't look likely, I'm hoping to be able to run the Robert W. Driscoll "Not All There" Race Friday morning and the Ames and McCurdy trophy races Saturday. If all goes according to plan members will attend the Quissett Yacht Club Annual Meeting on Sunday afternoon where my RC co-chair Carol Sutor and I will award the summer's racing trophies, the flag officers will award the club's special trophies, new officers will be elected and members will celebrate the end of another great summer. My brother Ted Burt plans to run the Labor Day races Monday morning then pull out the racing marks signalling the end of the 2010 racing season.

#### **August Wednesday Series – Week 4 – Aug. 25**

**Herreshoff 12½ footers**

**RC: Janet Chalmers, Ed Jackson, Anne Dyer**

**Course DE**

1. Tag Along, David Burt & Alec Lengyel, 36:17
2. Found It, Mort Saunders & Charlotte Dorris, 36:44
3. True Blue, Kathy Cooper & Douglas Cooper, 37:09
4. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Elizabeth Clark, 37:25
5. Adajio, Bill Armstrong & George Armstrong, 37:48
6. Sea Glass, Nina Hocker & Sheila Gordon, 38:03
7. Sea Breeze, Ali Rodin & Steve Chalmers, 38:23
8. Penguin, Randy Evans (solo), 38:53
9. Popover, Ed Brakeman & Sara Brakeman, 42:00

#### **August Saturday Series – Week 4 – Aug. 28**

**RC: Janet Chalmers, Carol Sutor, Ann Dyer, Nina Hocker, Carolyn Powers, George Armstrong**

**Handicap Class**

**Course VE**

1. Radiant, Douglas Cooper & Kathy Cooper, Matty Cooper, 2:02:14
2. Coyote, Eric Karplus & Sia & Christos Karplus, 2:02:44
3. Volante, Alan Haigh & Douglas Jones, 2:03:29

**Herreshoff 12½ footers**

**Race 1 – Course DE**

1. Adajio, Bill Armstrong III & Bill Armstrong Jr., 58:29
2. Found It, Mort Saunders & Elizabeth Clark, 59:16
3. Allie Rose, Chuck First & Julia Lord, Olivia Lord, 59:45
4. Olivia, Tommy First & Olivia First, 1:00:00
5. Pani Baba, Charlotte Dorris & Weatherly Dorris, 1:00:46
6. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Linda Sallop, 1:01:02
7. Penguin, Betsy Hunt & Halley Allen, 1:04:33
8. Handoah, Hannah Garfield & Ben Garfield, 1:04:54
9. Phoenix, Emma Garfield & Mike Garfield, 1:05:07
10. Tag Along, David Burt & Alec Lengyel, 1:05:22
11. Will O' The Wisp, Bob Sutor & Chris Olsen, 1:05:44
12. Sea Breeze, Steve Chalmers & Sheila Gordon, 1:05:52

**Race 2 – Course A**

1. Found It, Mort Saunders & Elizabeth Clark, 51:25
2. Will O' The Wisp, Bob Sutor & Chris Olsen, 51:31
3. Pani Baba, Charlotte Dorris & Weatherly Dorris, 52:40
4. Adajio, Bill Armstrong III & Bill Armstrong Jr., 53:02
5. Allie Rose, Julia Lord & Chuck First, Olivia Lord, 54:04
6. Olivia, Tommy First & Olivia First, 56:39
7. Sea Breeze, Steve Chalmers & Sheila Gordon, 58:05
8. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Linda Sallop, 59:32
9. Penguin, Betsy Hunt & Halley Allen, 59:37
10. Phoenix, Emma Garfield & Mike Garfield, 1:00:30
11. Handoah, Hannah Garfield & Ben Garfield, 1:01:43
12. Tag Along, David Burt & Alec Lengyel, 1:08:35

**Junior Series – Week 4 – Aug. 29**

**Herreshoff 12½ footers**

**RC: Janet Chalmers, Sudha Reddy, Maya & Leela Phillips**

**Postponed, then cancelled – no wind**

**Cutline: Old Mother West Wind was back in charge Wednesday afternoon providing a wet and wild northwesterly wind and sloppy seas as the venue for the final Quissett Yacht Club twilight series race of the season. Photo by Janet Chalmers.**