



Classic Buzzards Bay Smoky Sou'westers Refresh and Challenge Quissett Sailors

By JANET BURT CHALMERS

Friday, July 9, 2010

Summer heat waves in the Northeast generally happen when there's a southwesterly breeze, a land breeze for just about everyone except for the lucky folks on Cape Cod who enjoy the wind off the water. A southwesterly off Quissett comes right up Buzzards Bay, generally blowing 10-15 knots, but often building higher. The refreshing smoky sou'wester is the reason so many people flock to the Cape in the summer and the reason Buzzards Bay has the reputation of providing some of the best sailing wind on the east coast.

With a little bit of extra westerly in the wind on Wednesday and Sunday, some Quissett racers got more than enough fresh air and breaking waves over their bows for their liking, while others enjoyed the challenging conditions. Saturday's winds were delightful for racers, spectators and pleasure boaters alike, making most people on the water feel glad to be alive.

Wet and Wild Wednesday Race

Seven Herreshoff 12½ footers ventured out to race in the first Wednesday twilight series race of the season, but two turned around at the harbor mouth after getting a taste of the big waves and 15-18 knot west-southwesterly wind. Five others followed Cornelia Carey into the Gansett bight where the race committee was setting a short Gold Cup course in the lee of Penzance Point. With so much westerly in the wind, the seas were still steep and the wind strong, though much less so than at the usual starting area. The forecast was for the wind to moderate, but actually it increased to more than 20 knots.

The five crews started their beat to mark J, their windward mark in the G course. Jeffrey Keith, with Martha Adams and 8-year-old Owen Keith as crew in Jezebel, bore off shortly after the start to head home. David Burt with Nick Hunnewell and Natty King crewing made it first to the windward mark in Tag Along, followed by Mike Fenlon and Sam Armstrong in Buttercup, Mike and Emma Garfield in Phoenix, and Steve and Hadley Chalmers in Sea Breeze. The first three skippers headed for mark A instead of the drop reach mark, allowing Steve to converge with David at the proper mark where all four boats jibed and continued their broad reaches to the leeward mark with Tag Along and Sea Breeze sailing overlapped throughout the leg. All four beat back to J and ran to the finish with Tag Along crossing first, followed by Phoenix, Buttercup and finally Sea Breeze flying a protest flag. Stay tuned.

Saturday Action

Five Herreshoff S Boats and 11 Herreshoff 12½ footers came out to compete in a lovely 8-10 knot southwesterly on Saturday which increased during the afternoon to 12-14 knots. The S Boats had a beautiful start and all headed for the Gansett shoreline to beat to Woods Hole bell buoy #13, the first leg of their 6.325 mile BYZ course. Jeffrey Keith made



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it first to the bell in his red Coyote, followed by Josh Bernstein in his black Olive, Doug and Kathy Cooper in their blue Radiant, Eric Karplus in Lawrence Peirson's white Volante, and Jon Burt in Alan Haigh's white Teaticket. Coyote's chute popped up shortly after Jeffrey rounded, but after an extended struggle trying to untangle it, the crew brought it in. Teaticket's crew got her spinnaker drawing well, and seeing that the rest of the fleet was heading too high searching for their reach mark, Jon sailed a direct course and overtook the fleet. More position shifts followed on the second reach to mark Z off Gunning Point, and on the long beat to the finish.

The S Boats' last leg and finish featured the bigger boats overtaking the 12½ footers and finishing among them. Josh Bernstein took the winner's horn in Olive, crossing the line just after the third 12½. Olive was quickly followed by Jon Burt at the helm of Teaticket and Jeffrey Keith at the helm of Coyote before six more 12½ footers crossed, then Doug Cooper in Radiant and Eric Karplus in Volante before the last two 12½ s finished! It was a nail-biting time for the race committee trying to record all the finishes correctly.

Commodore Leads His Fleet

Meanwhile, the 12½ footers started their JH course with the fleet stretched down the line. David Burt was over early in Tag Along, and after restarting and doing two penalty turns for fouling Mike Garfield, could not recover. Mort Saunders moved Found It well, leading the fleet to mark J off Penzance Point, followed by Alec Clowes in Due Diligence, Mike Fenlon in Buttercup, Tommy First in Olivia and Lily Dorris in Pani Baba. After the long spinnaker run to mark H off Racing Beach Mort and Alec were still one and two, with Tommy First having moved into third place ahead of Mike Garfield and Mike Fenlon.

Then came the hairy part with the S Boats overtaking the 12½s and everyone finishing within seconds. Commodore Mort Saunders led his fleet to victory, followed by Alec Clowes and Tommy First. Then, following the first three S Boats, Lily Dorris, Mike Garfield and Steve Chalmers crossed 4-5-6, seconds apart. Kudos to Nina Hocker and Carol Suitor for keeping their cool while recording the crazy finish. And, again, stay tuned – a suit for redress has been filed against the race committee.

The Glorious Fourth

Following morning colors and the parade Quissett sailors headed out to the Bay to compete for the beautiful silver 4th of July trophies. The same five S Boats were on hand to spar again, plus ten Herreshoff 12½ footers. They started on a 12-15 knot west-southwesterly which increased during the race to 15-18 knots.

The S Boats took off on their 7-mile CYH course, again heading up the Gansett shoreline on their way to the Weepecket Rock gong. Clear of Penzance Point, the fleet spread out following different theories as to how best to play the current off Woods Hole. Jon Burt and Eric Karplus set off towards New Bedford in Teaticket and Volante, while Jeffrey Keith in Coyote covered Josh Bernstein in Olive and Doug Cooper in Radiant down the middle. Then Josh tacked off toward Uncatena Island, making it anyone's guess who would be ahead when the boats converged. As it turned out, Coyote rounded first closely followed by Olive and Teaticket.

After their run to Y and broad reach to H off Racing Beach, the S Boats beat to the finish, again converging with the 12½ fleet which was beating home from mark X halfway between the finish line and mark H. This time the only close finishes were the last S Boat and the last 12½. Josh Bernstein took the cannon blast in Olive, followed across by Jon Burt in Teaticket 37 seconds later, and Jeffrey Keith in Coyote 22 seconds after that.

The Herreshoff 12½ footer race belonged to David Burt in Tag Along who, as is his wont, led the way to the Woods Hole bell and never looked back. Commodore Mort Saunders rounded second in Found It, followed by Alec Clowes in Due Diligence, Bill Armstrong in Adajio, and Tommy First in Olivia. With the increasing wind and large following sea, the spinnaker run to mark X was a dramatic one, a veritable Nantucket sleigh ride. Kudos to the crews who strained to maintain control of the unwieldy chutes.

After Tag Along rounded X Bill Armstrong with father and son crewing were in second place having overtaken Alec and Mort on the run, but their hopes of at taking the lead on the final beat were dashed when Adajio's gaff broke as they rounded X. David and crew Peter Richardsson took the cannon blast more than two minutes ahead of second and third place finishers Tommy and Olivia First and Alexa Barnard in Olivia who eked out a one second victory over Alec Clowes and Jo Khamky in Due Diligence. Mort and granddaughter Weatherly Saunders and her friend Sarah Sheffler settled for fourth, followed by a photo finish by Ali and Diana Rodin in Sea Breeze, and Weatherly Dorris and Steve Chalmers in Pani Baba.

Highlights of the coming week include a double-header for the 12½ footers plus races for Handicap class and S Boats on Saturday, a Herreshoff Junior series race Sunday morning, the McMurtrie Trophy race for women skippers 35 years or older on Sunday afternoon, and the third twilight series race on Wednesday evening.

July Wednesday Series – Week 1 – June 30

RC: Janet Chalmers, Ed Jackson, Jeremy Chalmers, Bridget Moses, Charlie Chalmers

Herreshoff 12½ footers

Course G – Protest Pending

1. Tag Along, David Burt & Nick Hunnewell, Natty King, 36:30
2. Phoenix, Mike Garfield & Emma Garfield, 37:19
3. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Sam Armstrong, 37:31
4. Sea Breeze, Steve Chalmers & Hadley Chalmers, 38:27
- DNF Jezebel, Jeffrey Keith & Martha Adams, Owen Keith

July Saturday Series – Week 1

RC: Janet Chalmers, Carol Sutor, Nina Hocker

Handicap Class – no participants

S Boat Class

Course BYZ – 6.325 miles

1. Olive, Josh Bernstein & Molly Bernstein, Kernan Schloss, 1:18:36
2. Teaticket, Jon Burt & Katy Burt, Ham Lord, Peter Richardsson, 1:18:50
3. Coyote, Jeffrey Keith & Peter Jones, Helen Lord, Jeremy Chalmers, 1:19:00
4. Radiant, Douglas Cooper & Kathy Cooper, Richard Foster, 1:19:51
5. Volante, Eric Karplus & Sia Karplus, Joel White, 1:20:58

Herreshoff 12½ footers

Course JH – Request for Redress pending

1. Found It, Mort Saunders & Weatherly Saunders, Sarah Sheffler, 1:00:25
2. Due Diligence, Alec Clowes & Jo Khamky, 1:01:57
3. Olivia, Tom First & Olivia First, Alexa Barnard, 1:03:07
4. Pani Baba, Lily Dorris & Weatherly Dorris, Casey Guairtis, 1:14:07
5. Phoenix, Mike Garfield & Emma Garfield, 1:04:10
6. Sea Breeze, Steve Chalmers & Sheila Gordon, 1:04:15
7. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Linda Sallop, 1:04:30
8. Adajio, Bill Armstrong III & Bill Armstrong Jr., George Armstrong, 1:04:32
9. Allie Rose, Chuck First & Julia Lord, Olivia Lord, 1:04:36
10. Tag Along, David Burt & Alec Lengyel, 1:06:40
11. Tern, Jack Morse & Elizabeth Morse, 1:07:42

Fourth of July Trophy Races – July 4

RC: Janet Chalmers, Mike Garfield, Alec Burt

Handicap Class – no participants

S Boat Class

Course CYH – 7.02 miles

1. Olive, Josh Bernstein & Fred Stremner, Lynn Barry, 1:31:26
2. Teaticket, Jon Burt & Ted Burt, Ham Lord, 1:32:03
3. Coyote, Jeffrey Keith & Douglas Jones, Helen Lord, 1:32:25
4. Radiant, Douglas Cooper & Kathy Cooper, Richard Foster, 1:32:55
5. Volante, Eric Karplus & Sia Karplus, Ian Swope, Jenn Swope, 1:35:10

Herreshoff 12½ footers

Course BX

1. Tag Along, David Burt & Peter Richardsson, 1:05:07
2. Olivia, Tom First & Olivia First, Alexa Barnard, 1:07:24
3. Due Diligence, Alec Clowes & Jo Khamky, 1:07:25
4. Found It, Mort Saunders & Weatherly Saunders, Sarah Sheffler, 1:07:37

5. Sea Breeze, Ali Rodin & Diana Rodin, 1:08:26
 6. Pani Baba, Weatherly Dorris & Steve Chalmers, 1:08:30
 7. Phoenix, Mike Garfield & Emma Garfield, 1:09:17
 8. Tern, Jack Morse & Elizabeth Morse, 1:20:23
- DNF Adajio, Bill Armstrong III & Bill Armstrong Jr., George Armstrong
DNF Allie Rose, Chuck First & Elizabeth Clark

Cutline: Three generations of Armstrongs – Bill Jr., George and Bill III – competed for the Fourth of July Trophy Sunday in Adajio. With the brutal beat to the Woods Hole bell and the Nantucket sleigh ride downwind to mark X behind them, they were in second place with one short beat to go to finish the race when their gaff broke, forcing them to drop out of the race. Photo by Janet Chalmers.