



# Variety of Wind Conditions Keeps Quissett Sailors Alert

By JANET BURT CHALMERS

Friday, July 16, 2010

Quissett sailors enjoyed another great week of competitive sailboat racing on Buzzards Bay, this time with a variety of wind conditions rather than the week before's smoky sou'westers.

Ali Rodin smiled with delight as she and brother Steve Chalmers rowed out to Sea Breeze to compete in last Wednesday's twilight series race. The reason? A light to moderate southeasterly breeze was blowing off the shore across flat water creating Ali's favorite racing conditions. Her smile was justified as she and Steve led the six-boat fleet of Herreshoff 12½ footers from start to finish, effectively covering Chuck First and Elizabeth Clark in Allie Rose

throughout the EXDE course. Sea Breeze and Allie Rose started overlapped on the line and Chuck continued in second place the whole way. David Burt and Nick Hunnewell sniffed out a southerly windshift on the long beat in from D to overtake Mike Fenlon and Linda Sallop in Buttercup and Jeffrey Keith, Martha Adams and Owen Keith in Jezebel, and close the gap with the leaders somewhat to finish third in Tag Along.

## Busy Race Committee

The weekend was packed with work for the race committee which ran a doubleheader for the 12½ footers while the S Boats raced to the Weepecket Rock gong and back on Saturday, followed by the first Herreshoff Junior series race Sunday morning and the McMurtrie Trophy race for women skippers 35 years or older on Sunday afternoon. A 10-12 knot west-southwesterly set the stage for the start of the Saturday races, but moderated to 8-10 knots as the afternoon progressed.

Though Jeffrey Keith was first to the windward mark in Coyote in both S Boat races last weekend, he couldn't hold his lead in either race, but this time he ducked the other three competitors at the start, then went on to win the race with his wife Sara and long-time friend Doug Jones crewing. Hot from two victories the previous weekend, Josh Bernstein with Will Allen crewing posted second in Olive, followed across 20 seconds later by Eric and Sia Karplus and Paul Warneke in Teaticket, then Doug and Kathy Cooper and Richard Foster in Radiant.

The only S Boat-12½ footer interaction this week was when first-place Sea Breeze crossed first-place Coyote as the S Boat ran toward her finish and the Herreshoff reached toward the Quissett light buoy in the 12½'s second race. Steve Chalmers and Sheila Gordon breathed a huge sigh of relief as they barely made it across Jeffrey's fast-moving Coyote.

The doubleheader belonged to Alec Clowes and fiancée Jo Khamke in Due Diligence who beat the 10-boat Herreshoff fleet in each of the short, tactical races following two perfect starts at the leeward end of the line. While everything went right for Alec, Bill Armstrong continued to have rigging issues with Adajio. Into the starting sequence for the first race his throat halyard let go causing him to be late across the starting line by three and a half minutes. For the second start



Just after their start Saturday afternoon, four Herreshoff S Boats begin their 2.69 mile beat to the Weepecket Rock gong buoy. On port tack, Jeffrey Keith has just sailed Coyote below starboard tackers Radiant and Olive and is about to duck below Teaticket, en route to his first victory of the summer. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

he took so long making adjustments that all he could do was to head for the line at the last minute without even seeing the course, but he made a great start anyway.

The first race was an M course, a big triangle with start and finish in the middle. While Alec and Jo led all the way in Due Diligence, Mort Saunders and granddaughter Weatherly Saunders and Sarah Sheffler in Found It battled it out with Tommy First and 8-year-old son Timothy in Olivia for second place, with the Firsts overtaking the Saunders on the final beat. David Burt with Nicholas Hunnewell and Alec Lengyel crewing in Tag Along posted fourth, only nine seconds behind Found It, with Chuck First and Julia and Olivia Lord in Allie Rose taking fifth.

While the Herreshoffs were completing the first race and the S Boat's spinnakers were growing larger on the horizon, Barbara Jones and Paul Denton in Barbara's power boat, Gryphon, moved the windward mark about 100 yards towards the Weepeckets while the RC got ready to set a Gold Cup course for the second race of the Herreshoff's doubleheader. Many thanks to Barbara and Paul for their help.

Steve Chalmers and Sheila Gordon sailed an excellent beat in Sea Breeze, rounding the windward mark in first place followed around by Mike Fenlon and Linda Sallop in Buttercup, and Alec Clowes and Jo Khamke in Due Diligence. The order remained the same at the reach mark at the entrance to Quissett Harbor, with David Burt, Nick and Alec in Tag Along, and Mort, Weatherly and Sarah in Found It in hot pursuit. Steve and Mike made a fatal error at the light buoy by initially heading for the leeward mark used in the previous M course race rather than heading higher toward the leeward mark of the G course. Alec and Jo took over first place in Due Diligence, closely followed by Tag Along and Found It, then Buttercup and Sea Breeze. The order stayed the same for the final beat and run to the finish except that Lily and Weatherly Dorris in Pani Baba overtook Sea Breeze, crossing in fifth place, four seconds ahead of Steve and Sheila.

### **First Junior Series Race**

A record fleet of seven Herreshoff 12½ footers skippered by smiling juniors came out to compete in the first of their four-race series. Two boats were full of giggling girls old and experienced enough to compete in the classic boats without adults aboard, while the other five boats had parents crewing who promised to just be along for the ride for safety sake, not as coaches or tacticians.

An 8-10 knot north-northeasterly wind was blowing toward the starting area from the tip of Gunning Point making a beat to mark H off Racing Beach followed by a run back, suitable for the kids. But the wind started shifting more northerly at 10:30 and settled in from the north, even a bit west of north, as the race got underway at 10:35. Rather than go through a postponement and set out a mark to the north, the RC decided that the current course, though not great, would be a challenge for the juniors. So, horns sounded, flags went up and down, and the kids got underway, everyone finally figuring out that they had to start on port tack and should head as close as they could to mark H.

Olivia First and Emma Garfield were the first to cross the line and sailed off overlapped in Olivia and Phoenix moving well. Charlie Chalmers and Nicholas Hunnewell crossed next in Sea Breeze and Tag Along, each passing close to the pin and heading higher than Olivia and Emma were, but not going quite as fast. Weatherly Saunders crossed in the middle of the line after setting up for a startboard-tack start. She quickly recovered and sailed Found It well. The windshift into the north allowed Charlie and Nicholas to zero in on the mark and steer directly there. Charlie reached the mark first but made things more interesting by going into irons while Nicholas and Olivia converged on the mark. The three rounded together with Charlie having a slight lead. Emma rounded fourth, followed around by Weatherly, then Hannah Garfield and Sara Brakeman. Charlie took the winner's horn, closely followed by Olivia and Nicholas.

### **McMurtrie Trophy**

Beware the dying northerly! The wind was still northerly when the RC went out to set the course for the Mary Chute McMurtrie Trophy, a special race first sailed in 1969 for women skippers at least 35 years old. Though the dreaded dying northerly threatened to wreak havoc during the afternoon, possibly cranking 180 degrees during the race, the RC crossed fingers, set a course and hoped for the best.

Though QYC certainly has more eligible women in its membership, only three came out to compete, all former winners of the beautiful sterling bowl. Sam McMurtrie, son of Mary Chute McMurtrie, joined me aboard Cornelia Carey to run the race. We chose an I course using drop marks towards Cleveland Ledge and off the Swift house in Gansett with the start and finish in the middle. The course looked pretty short for a trophy race but turned out just right, taking the competitors about an hour to complete just before the northerly pooped out and began to shift into the east and eventually around to the south and southwest. We were lucky!

Weatherly Dorris took a great start at the pin end of the line in Pani Baba and showed her transom to Carol Sutor in Will O' The Wisp and Ali Rodin in Sea Breeze for the next 52 minutes. With daughter Lily crewing, Weatherly moved out on her competition on the first beat, gave a spinnaker tutorial on the run, and increased her lead to eight minutes on the final beat. Good job!

Meanwhile Carol, with Bob Morris crewing, and Ali with brother Steve Chalmers crewing, duked it out as the also-rans. The two boats rounded the windward mark close together and Sea Breeze moved out on Will O' The Wisp because Steve was an old hand at setting a Herreshoff spinnaker whereas Bob had never tried it. The duel continued on the beat home when Ali tacked up the Gansett shoreline hoping for the expected easterly windshift while Carol sailed offshore on what was left of the northerly. Seven minutes after Weatherly and Lily had finished and headed home Ali crossed Carol about 30 yards to leeward of the finish line. If Carol had ducked under Sea Breeze's transom rather than tacking under her lee, the results might have been different, but we'll never know. Ali finished second, followed almost a minute later by Carol.

Highlights of the coming week include single Saturday series races for Handicap, S Boat and H classes Saturday afternoon, the annual family picnic at the Quamquam Beach Club that evening, the second Herreshoff Junior series race Sunday morning, and the fourth twilight series race on Wednesday evening.

#### **July Wednesday Series – Week 2 – July 7**

**RC: Janet Chalmers, Ed Jackson, Gail Parl**

**Herreshoff 12½ footers**

**Course EXDE finish at E**

- 1. Sea Breeze, Ali Rodin & Steve Chalmers, 58:15**
- 2. Allie Rose, Chuck First & Elizabeth Clark, 59:48**
- 3. Tag Along, David Burt & Nick Hunnewell, 1:00:54**
- 4. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Linda Sallop, 1:01:57**
- 5. Jezebel, Jeffrey Keith & Martha Adams, Owen Keith, 1:02:54**
- 6. Windy Wolfe, Lily Dorris & Faith Gardner, 1:07:02**

#### **July Saturday Series – Week 2 – July 10**

**RC: Janet Chalmers, Carol Sutor, Martha Adams**

**Handicap Class – no participants**

**S Boat Class**

**Course C – 5.38 miles**

- 1. Coyote, Jeffrey Keith & Sara Keith, Douglas Jones, 1:18:43**
- 2. Olive, Josh Bernstein & Will Allen, 1:19:24**
- 2. Teaticket, Eric Karplus & Sia Karplus, Ham Lord, Paul Warneke, 1:19:44**
- 4. Radiant, Douglas Cooper & Kathy Cooper, Richard Foster, 1:21:10**

**Herreshoff 12½ footers**

**Race 1 Course M**

- 1. Due Diligence, Alec Clowes & Jo Khamky, 34:14**
- 2. Olivia, Tom First & Timothy First, 34:42**
- 3. Found It, Mort Saunders & Weatherly Saunders, Sarah Sheffler, 35:05**
- 4. Tag Along, David Burt & Nick Hunnewell, Alec Lengyel, 35:14**
- 5. Allie Rose, Chuck First & Julia Lord, Olivia Lord, 35:35**
- 6. Phoenix, Mike Garfield & Emma Garfield, 36:25**
- 7. Sea Breeze, Steve Chalmers & Sheila Gordon, 36:58**
- 8. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Linda Sallop, 37:43**
- 9. Adajio, Bill Armstrong III & Bill Armstrong Jr., George Armstrong, 38:16**
- 10. Pani Baba, Lily Dorris & Weatherly Dorris, 39:42**

**Race 2 Course G**

1. Due Diligence, Alec Clowes & Jo Khamky, 35:05
2. Found It, Mort Saunders & Weatherly Saunders, Sarah Sheffler, 35:13
3. Tag Along, David Burt & Nick Hunnewell, Alec Lengyel, 36:17
4. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Linda Sallop, 36:20
5. Pani Baba, Lily Dorris & Weatherly Dorris, 36:58
6. Sea Breeze, Steve Chalmers & Sheila Gordon, 37:02
7. Phoenix, Mike Garfield & Emma Garfield, 37:37
8. Allie Rose, Julia Lord & Chuck First, Olivia Lord, 38:02
9. Adajio, Bill Armstrong III & Bill Armstrong Jr., George Armstrong, 39:22
10. Olivia, Tom First & Timothy First, 40:25

**Junior Series – Week 1 – July 11**

Herreshoff 12½ footers

RC: Janet Chalmers & David Burt

**Course H**

1. Sea Breeze, Charlie Chalmers & Jeremy Chalmers, 22:36
2. Olivia, Olivia First & Tommy First, 22:52
3. Tag Along, Nicholas Hunnewell & Rebecca Hunnewell, 23:04
4. Phoenix, Emma Garfield & Mike Garfield, 24:57
5. Found It, Weatherly Saunders & Sarah Sheffler, Grace Brakeman, 25:13
6. Tern, Hannah Garfield & Ben Garfield, 27:16
7. Popover, Sarah Brakeman & Maggie O'Rourke, 31:02

**Mary Chute McMurtrie Trophy – July 11**

Herreshoff 12½ footers

RC: Janet Chalmers & Sam McMurtrie

**Course I**

1. Pani Baba, Weatherly Dorris & Lily Dorris, 52:15
2. Sea Breeze, Ali Rodin & Steve Chalmers, 1:00:12
3. Will O' The Wisp, Carol Sutor & Bob Morris, 1:01:08

**Cutline:** Just after their start Saturday afternoon, four Herreshoff S Boats begin their 2.69 mile beat to the Weepeeket Rock gong buoy. On port tack, Jeffrey Keith has just sailed Coyote below starboard tackers Radiant and Olive and is about to duck below Teaticket, en route to his first victory of the summer. Photo by Janet Chalmers.