



Quissett Sailors Wrap Up Exciting July Series

By JANET BURT CHALMERS

Friday, July 30, 2010

Quissett sailors wrapped up their July series with 10-boat fleets of Herreshoff 12½ footers on both Wednesday and Saturday and a five-boat fleet of Herreshoff S Boats on Saturday. Though the dreaded dying northerly and late-afternoon thunderstorms threatened to disrupt the races, good winds came in on schedule for excellent competitions on both days,

A delightful 10-12 knot west-southwesterly set the stage for the classic beat to mark A off Woods Hole's Stony beach late Wednesday afternoon. A southerly shift just before the start put a gleam in the eyes of some of the long-time racers including David Burt and Ali Rodin who decided this was a day to creep up the Gansett shoreline looking for the lifts there. But it was Randy Evans sailing solo in Penguin who found the best air down the middle. Enjoying brand-new radial sails, he crossed ahead of the old salt, the inshore leader, and gave everyone a good look at both Penguin's sails and transom as he led the way to mark A.



Alec Clowes and Jo Khamky effectively cover the fleet in Due Diligence as they approach the finish line in the second race of Saturday's doubleheader. They won both the race and the July series posting three firsts and three seconds. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

Nina Hocker and Sheila Gordon rounded second in Sea Glass, followed around by Ali Rodin and Steve Chalmers who had gotten a terrible start in Sea Breeze and had worked themselves up through the fleet. Pacing herself perfectly with brother Steve efficiently setting and handling the red spinnaker, Ali continued her passing game on the run home, first overtaking Nina and Sheila and then Randy who wasn't allowed to fly a spinnaker single-handed. Ali took the winner's horn in Sea Breeze, earning her and Steve first place in the July series with two firsts and a third. Nina took second in Sea Glass and Randy third in Penguin. Next came four quick finishes with David Burt and Nick Hunnewell in Tag Along crossing five seconds ahead of Jeffrey Keith and Darcy King in Jezebel, who were two seconds ahead of Mike Fenlon and Steve Armstrong in Buttercup, who in turn were five seconds ahead of Mike, Ben and Noah Garfield in Phoenix.

A Welcome Southeasterly

Flat seas and limp flags hanging from their poles did not bode well for racing Saturday afternoon when Cornelia Carey headed into Buzzards Bay to run the final races of the Herreshoff S Boat and 12½ footer July Saturday series. The forecast was for the dying northerly to eventually come up west-southwesterly, but approaching race time there was no hint of that's happening. Then suddenly a surprise 8-10 knot southeasterly started making its way out of the harbor pushing the racing boats ahead of it into the Bay. The race committee scrambled, deciding to hope the new wind would last long enough to get off races for both classes. With help from Barbara Jones and Paul Denton setting a leeward drop mark between the starting buoy and mark D to the northwest, the RC was able to set courses and start the classes on schedule. Thank you Barbara and Paul!

The five S Boats had a short but good beat to mark E off the Knob beach and were well on their way reaching to mark H off Racing Beach when the Herreshoff 12½ footers started the first of their two 25-30 minute windward-leeward races

with the start and finish in the middle. So far, so good. With Jeffrey Keith leading in Coyote, spinnakers popped at mark H as the S Boats headed for mark Y a mile and a half northwest of the starting buoy. The 12½ footers had a good beat to mark E with Mort Saunders and Hannah Garfield in Found It and Chuck First and Julia Lord in Allie Rose rounding first and second after tacking toward the harbor mouth, and Steve Chalmers and Scottie Gordon in Sea Breeze rounding third after having tacked towards Racing Beach. Mort led the fleet to the leeward mark but ran into trouble when his spinnaker wouldn't come down. Chuck quickly took over the lead on the beat home and covered the opposition to take the horn. Alec Clowes and Jo Khamky posted second in Due Diligence, followed by Steve Chalmers and Scottie Gordon in Sea Breeze just nipping Bill and George Armstrong in Adajio at the pin.

July Series Winners

With the southeasterly still blowing, the S Boats started their long beat to the finish while the 12½ footers regrouped for their second race, the skippers ready to prove that they had learned something the first time around. Alec and Jo were right on the middle of the starting line at the horn and led all the way in Due Diligence, sailing the course almost three minutes faster than they did the first time and walking away with July series honors having posted three firsts and three seconds. While Alec and Jo were covering the fleet, particularly David Burt and Alec Lengyel in Tag Along, Jeffrey Keith with wife Sara and friend Doug Jones sailed Coyote to victory taking his second bullet in so many weeks and winning the July S Boat series. Next came Alan Haigh and brothers Ham and Mason Lord in Teaticket, followed by a close finish between Doug and Kathy Cooper in Radiant and Eric and Sia Karplus plus George, Nick and Jessica Hunnewell in Volante. Unusual for him, Josh Bernstein with Ben Morris and Rebecca Hunnewell brought up the rear in Olive, probably because they went searching for the expected west-southwesterly windshift which hadn't materialized.

The short Herreshoff course kept the fleet close with everyone finishing in a little more than four minutes. Alec and Jo's only real challenger was David Burt in Tag Along who crossed 34 seconds behind them. Next came Tommy First and Olivia Lord in Olivia, then another close finish between Bill and George Armstrong in Adajio and Steve and Scottie Gordon in Sea Breeze, with Adajio getting the nod this time.

On Sunday lots of QYC members in power boats made it to the Weepeckets for the annual picnic there, but only one of those who tried to sail small boats made it to the islands. The morning's dying northerly left the Bay lumpy but windless at the time the sailboats tried to make it out the channel and up the Bay, and the lumpy conditions made towing them a poor option. If anyone would persevere it was David Burt, who was still out there in Tag Along when the southwest-erly came in; he and his former student Domingo Vasquez and his six-year-old son Josef had a fine, wet sail followed by a swim, lunch and kite flying at the Weepeckets. Though Tag Along had no competition for a race home, Domingo set the big yellow spinnaker and the little Herreshoff flew back to Quissett in record time.

Regattas This Weekend

This weekend will be an exciting one at Quissett with five or more Herreshoff S Boats from Narragansett Bay joining the five-boat QYC fleet for an invitational regatta here. Alan Haigh and many members are working hard to make this a wonderful event. Spectators on the Knob should get a good view of the beautiful classic wooden boats as they start at noon on both Saturday and Sunday. While the S Boats are racing here some of the Quissett H Class fleet will be competing at Beverly Yacht Club in Marion at the H Class Championship Regatta there, and at least one QYC Beetle Cat sailor will be competing at Chapoquoit Yacht Club in the Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat Championship Regatta.

July Wednesday Series – Week 4 – July 21

Herreshoff 12½ footers

RC: Janet Chalmers & Ed Jackson

Course A

1. Sea Breeze, Ali Rodin & Steve Chalmers, 42:28
2. Sea Glass, Nina Hocker & Sheila Gordon, 42:41
3. Penguin, Randy Evans (solo), 43:05
4. Tag Along, David Burt & Nicholas Hunnewell, 43:28
5. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Steve Armstrong, 43:35
6. Phoenix, Mike Garfield & Ben Garfield, Noah Garfield, 43:40
7. Allie Rose, Chuck First & Elizabeth Clark, 44:19
8. Will O' The Wisp, Carol Suitor & Susan Shannon, 46:34
9. Tumbleweed, Rebecca Hunnewell & Meg King, Steve McFarland, 50:30
- WD Jezebel, Jeffrey Keith & Darcy King

July Saturday Series – Week 4 – July 24

RC: Janet Chalmers, Carol Suitor, Mike Garfield

S Boats

Course EHY

1. Coyote, Jeffrey Keith & Douglas Jones, Sara Keith, 1:01:23
2. Teaticket, Alan Haigh & Ham Lord, Mason Lord, 1:04:32
3. Radiant, Douglas Cooper & Kathy Cooper, 1:05:04
4. Volante, Eric Karplus & Sia Karplus, George Hunnewell, Nick Hunnewell, Jessica Hunnewell, 1:05:08
5. Olive, Josh Bernstein & Ben Morris, Rebecca Hunnewell 1:07:14

Herreshoff 12½ footers

Race 1 – Course EX

1. Allie Rose, Chuck First & Julia Lord, 28:07
2. Due Diligence, Alec Clowes & Jo Khamky, 28:33
3. Sea Breeze, Steve Chalmers & Scottie Gordon, 28:55
4. Adajio, Bill Armstrong III & George Armstrong, 29:03
5. Penguin, Betsy Hunt & Halley Allen, 29:48
6. Olivia, Tom First & Olivia Lord, 28:50
7. Found It, Mort Saunders & Hannah Garfield, 29:59
8. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Linda Sallop, 30:32
9. Tern, Jack Morse & Liz Morse, 30:40
10. Tag Along, David Burt & Alec Lengyel, 30:50

Race 1 – Course EX

1. Due Diligence, Alec Clowes & Jo Khamky, 25:40
2. Tag Along, David Burt & Alec Lengyel, 25:14
3. Olivia, Tom First & Olivia Lord, 26:56
4. Adajio, Bill Armstrong III & George Armstrong, 27:20
5. Sea Breeze, Steve Chalmers & Scottie Gordon, 27:22
6. Allie Rose, Julia Lord & Chuck First, 27:45
7. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Linda Sallop, 28:07
8. Penguin, Betsy Hunt & Halley Allen, 28:08
9. Found It, Mort Saunders & Hannah Garfield, 28:39
10. Tern, Jack Morse & Liz Morse, 29:52

Weepeeket Picnic Race – Sunday, July 25

Herreshoff 12½ footers

RC: Janet Chalmers, Sarah Grayson, Jancy Grayson, Isabelle Grayson

No race – Tag Along only H-12

Cutline: Alec Clowes and Jo Khamky effectively cover the fleet in Due Diligence as they approach the finish line in the second race of Saturday's double-header. They won both the race and the July series posting three firsts and three seconds. Photo by Janet Chalmers.