



## Merry Little Breezes Join The Fun In Heavy Calm Off Quissett

By JANET BURT CHALMERS

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“Heavy calm.” What a delightful way to describe last Wednesday’s conditions at twilight series racing time in both Woods Hole and Quissett. David Epstein used the term in his Woods Hole Yacht Club race report last week saying, “Wednesday’s race was canceled because of heavy calm.” In Woods Hole, where strong currents prevail, adequate wind is necessary for sailors to maintain steerage way. Don’t we know that’s true at Quissett too?

On our home waters, where current is usually negligible, eight Herreshoff 12½ footers came out to compete, hoping that a little breeze would ruffle the glassy waters enough to fit in the third of four August Wednesday series races. It was a pleasant late afternoon off Quissett, not too hot for would-be racers to

row their sailboats out to the race course where the RC had obliged by setting a starting mark right off the harbor mouth and had raised the answering pennant signalling a delay. Boats drifted around with sailors chatting and laughing. Chuck First and Elizabeth Clark circled Cornelia Carey saying that it was Elizabeth’s hot air that made Allie Rose move so well. Randy Evans went over the side of Penguin and did some bottom scrubbing, and he impressed all hands by being able to get back aboard!

### Merry Little Breezes Join The Fun

And then the Merry Little Breezes came by to check out their chance of joining in the fun, and they began to play little games, rippling the water here and there, seeming to indicate that they would stick around with light southwesterly zephyrs long enough for a short race towards Gansett point and back. The RC believed them and set off to drop a mark about 200 yards to the southwest and came back to set a starting line, post the all-time shortest windward-leeward course ever, and start blowing horns and hauling on flag halyards.

Gently, gently the boats got underway with Tag Along and Sea Glass suffering the added handicap of having to come back to restart because in trying to push the old salt over early, Nina Hocker crossed early as well. That was fun, thought the Merry Little Breezes – let’s try a little westerly windshift to see what happens. That little wind shift lifted all the boats making Mike and Emma Garfield in Phoenix and David Burt and Alec and Roxie Lengyel in Tag Along, who had started closest to the committee boat, look like they might be able to lay the mark. But a little more wind shift lifted the rest of the fleet some more letting everyone except for Bill and George Armstrong in Adajio and Nina and Andy Hocker in Sea Glass lay the mark. As is her wont, Ali Rodin, with brother Steve Chalmers crewing, willed Sea Breeze to and around the orange ball first, followed by a tight gathering as the rest of the fleet converged and the Merry Little Breezes skipped away to the inner harbor leaving a mess of boats trying to wheel around with little to no steerage way.



Quissett Yacht Club Wednesday twilight series racers made the best of sailing in what David Epstein so delightfully called “heavy calm” on August 18. Following a half-hour delay, eight Herreshoff crews drifted around a very short course, sometimes helped, sometimes hampered by the antics of the Merry Little Breezes. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

Finally everyone got around and slowly followed Sea Breeze towards the finish line. Some spinnakers went up but they didn't seem to do much good. Meanwhile, the Merry Little Breezes turned all the boats in the inner harbor towards the southeast, offering a clue to what might happen next for anyone who might notice. Nina Hocker was the only one who paid attention, and she altered her course towards the southeast. As Ali and Steve were approaching the finish line in Sea Breeze the boats behind them started to jibe and close the gap on a southerly windshift. The fleet began to accordion as those in the rear began to actually sail on the new teaser wind and caught up to those ahead of them, and they all whooshed across the line seconds apart with several overlapped.

Sea Breeze took the winner's horn with Randy Evans sailing solo in Penguin on the southeast side of the course surprising everyone by flying across in second place, followed by Nina and Andy in Sea Glass and then Allie Rose, Tag Along, Adajio and Orion all overlapped. Mike and Emma Garfield in Phoenix, who had looked best at the start but had more than their fair share of drifting with no steerage way by the mark thanks to some nasty little breezes, finished last, still only a little more than 36 minutes after their great start.

### **“Make It A Short Race, Teddy...”**

Ah, the day of the Quissett Yacht Club Ball, the day that QYC members dash about sailing, swimming and doing all those pre-Ball things they should do to avoid being eliminated in the early goings of the popular Mop Dance. The words of matriarch and legendary racer Mrs. Franklin King, aka Giddy, live on in the memories of those who raced in the 1950s and '60s: “Make it a short race, Teddy. The girls need to get home to set their hair.”

A great southeasterly breeze was back on Saturday afternoon for a delightful, dry and fast race off Quissett for the sailors who came out to compete in three Herreshoff S Boats and 11 Herreshoff 12½ footers. All boats had finished and headed for their moorings before 4 P.M., allowing plenty of time for sailors to swim, shower and don their finery before heading for the Woods Hole Golf Club at six for an evening of dancing and fun.

Both fleets started their races with a beat to mark E off the Knob beach, followed by a run to the northwest and a long beat back to finish at E. Alan Haigh, Ham Lord and Douglas Jones took the S Boat bullet in Lawrence Peirson's Volante, and Commodore Mort Saunders with granddaughter Weatherly led all the way in Found It to beat the Herreshoff 12½ footer fleet soundly. Mike Fenlon and Linda Sallop took second place in Buttercup, closely followed by Emma and Mike Garfield in Phoenix, Steve Chalmers and Nina Hocker in Sea Breeze, Chuck First and Elizabeth Clark in Allie Rose and Lily and Weatherly Dorris in Pani Baba.

### **Ancient Mariners Compete**

Six Herreshoff 12½ footers came out to race Sunday morning for honors in the Ancient Mariner race. Halley Allen with brother Bill Armstrong crewing in Adajio, took a great start by Cornelia Carey and led the way to the windward, reach and leeward marks with Dick Shriner and step-daughter Rear Commodore Nina Hocker in Buttercup and Vice Commodore Kathy Cooper and husband Doug in True Blue keeping pace close behind. On the final beat to the finish off the Knob beach in a freshening southeasterly Kathy played the headers up the middle to move into first place, earning the right to add her engraved name to an august list of Ancient Mariner winners. Dick Shriner crossed in second place, once again taking The Shang Goodwin Trophy for the oldest QYC competitor in the Ancient Mariner race. Others who will be eligible to race again next year are Halley Allen who took third, fourth-place finisher Gayler Conlin who sailed Allie Rose with Chuck First, fifth-place finisher Chris Olsen who sailed Sea Glass with daughter Anna, and sixth-place finisher Ben Garfield who raced with his children Hannah and Noah in Handoah. Good job everyone!

This is the weekend Quissett racers will wrap up their August series races with a doubleheader for the Herreshoff 12½ footers and a single race for the S Boats tomorrow, and a Junior series race on Sunday.

**August Wednesday Series – Week 3 – Aug. 18**

**Herreshoff 12½ footers**

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

**Course W**

1. Sea Breeze, Ali Rodin & Steve Chalmers, 34:49
2. Penguin, Randy Evans (solo), 35:39
3. Sea Glass, Nina Hocker & Andy Hocker, 35:59
4. Allie Rose, Chuck First & Elizabeth Clark, 36:03
5. Tag Along, David Burt & Alec Lengyel, Roxie Lengyel, 36:04
6. Adajio, Bill Armstrong & George Armstrong, 36:06
7. Orion, Liz Bernstein Norton, Molly Bernstein, Lucy Norton, 36:07
8. Phoenix, Mike Garfield & Ben Garfield, 36:20

**August Saturday Series – Week 3 – Aug. 21**

**RC: Janet Chalmers, Carol Sutor, Mike Garfield**

**Handicap Class**

**Course EXYE finish at E**

1. Volante, Alan Haigh & Ham Lord, Douglas Jones, 1:14:35
2. Coyote, Eric Karplus & Sia, Christos and Theodora Karplus; Sean Riley, Peter Vantola, 1:15:55
3. Radiant, Douglas Cooper & Kathy Cooper, Ben Morris, 1:16:31

**Herreshoff 12½ footers**

**Course EDE finish at E**

1. Found It, Mort Saunders & Weatherly Saunders, 1:00:54
2. Buttercup, Mike Fenlon & Linda Sallop, 1:05:04
3. Phoenix, Emma Garfield & Mike Garfield, 1:05:25
4. Sea Breeze, Steve Chalmers & Nina Hocker, 1:05:37
5. Allie Rose, Chuck First & Elizabeth Clark, 1:06:22
6. Pani Baba, Lily Dorris & Weatherly Dorris, 1:06:54
7. Tag Along, David Burt & Alec Lengyel, Roxie Lengyel, 1:07:45
8. Penguin, Betsy Hunt & Halley Allen, 1:08:05
9. Olivia, Tommy First & Sarah Grayson, 1:09:09
10. Handoah, Hannah Garfield & Ben Garfield, 1:10:05
11. Adajio, Bill Armstrong & George Armstrong, 1:10:29

**Ancient Mariner Race – Aug. 22**

**Herreshoff 12½ footers**

**RC: Janet Chalmers**

**Course EXDQ finish at Q**

1. True Blue, Kathy Cooper & Doug Cooper, 45:26
2. Buttercup, Dick Shriner & Nina Hocker, 46:33
3. Adajio, Halley Allen & Bill Armstrong, 46:52
4. Allie Rose, Gayler Conlin & Chuck First, 47:45
5. Sea Glass, Chris Olsen & Anna Olsen, 48:34
6. Handoah, Ben Garfield & Hannah Garfield, Noah Garfield 49:00

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