

The SCYC Sailing Fleet Fall Race, September 27 2020

On Sunday, eight SCYC boats sailed the 14 NM “Bang and Back” Fall Race in excellent 12-15+ KT SE winds around our local islands. This race was organized to replace the racing portion of the 2020 Fleet Regatta, which was cancelled due to constraints of Covid-19.

Respecting the SCYC Covid-19 Response Plan, Sailing Instructions were communicated by email. There was no Skippers Meeting, no Race Committee, no Protest Committee and no celebration ashore after the race. Attracting both racing and cruising boats, the race did not employ the Racing Rules of Sailing, but was sailed under Transport Canada COLREGS, which provide the rules for avoiding collisions at sea.

Boats entered one of two Division for the race:

- Division 2, boats crewed by two people from the same household:
 - Two boats sailed in Division 2.
- Division 3, Boats crewed by up to five people all from the same social group or bubble:
 - Six boats sailed in Division 3.

Starting between Schooner Reef and Fairwinds Marina, the course took our competitors first to the racing mark near Ruth Island, then to leave Yeo Island to Port, then Gerald Island to Starboard, then Amelia Island to Port, then to the finish line at Schooner Reef. When the first boat (Georgina Martin’s “Troublemaker”) crossed the finish line, all boats immediately reversed their direction and sailed the reverse of the same course back to the original start line.

After 2 ½ hours of sailing, seven of the eight boats crossed the finish line in quick succession within a span of just four minutes, delivering an exciting and busy finishing leg that included a dead heat finish between “Early Dawn” and “Fana Sea.” The overall time difference between the first boat finishing and the last was nine minutes. This illustrates the value of a “Bang and Back” course, which requires no handicaps, for a mixed fleet of boats.

The race delivered excellent sailing competition for all participants. For example, after rounding the Ruth Mark on the last leg of the race two boats, “Troublemaker” and “Pyrat”, sailed an exciting neck and neck battle for the entire 0.7 NM to the finish line. “Troublemaker” led by half a boat length as the two boats crossed the finish line, as illustrated in the following image provided by Bruce Petry, Skipper of “Natural High”. “Troublemaker”, to leeward of “Pyrat,” has the white and red spinnaker.

The crew of “Troublemaker” acknowledges the good sportsmanship demonstrated by the crew of Pyrat for veering away when a member of the Troublemaker crew fell on deck during



a maneuver in this close run and required a little extra room to recover.



The sailors competing enjoyed the course and the sailing conditions. Emailing their finish reports, several skippers commented, though, that this race revealed “rusty” techniques and skills resulting from not racing since last winter due to Covid-19 restrictions. This image shows Joanne Caple’s “Wasail” sailing beside “Natural High” early in the race. Joanne Caple commented later: *“We had a great time. Our crew’s knowledge was exponentially higher by the end of the race.”* Racing is indeed a great builder of sailing skills.

Nearing the final leg of the race the boats started to draw together. This image shows “Pyrat” nearing the Ruth Mark, having passed “Early Dawn” and soon to pass “Natural High”.



Despite having sailed such a competitive race Dick Duffley, skipper of Pyrat, determined after finishing that Pyrat had missed a mark of the course prescribed for the race, resulting in Pyrat sailing a shorter course on the return leg. Respecting the “honour” basis for the race, Dick offered to accept disqualification, which was declined. This is a fun race, so instead Dick offered a friendly penalty for fairness, taking Pyrat’s time to the back of Division 3.

In the end, the results published below show the first boat across the Finish Line, and Winner of the Division 2 Trophy, was Neal Berger’s “Ice Bear”. Lead boat to the fleet reversal and Winner of the Division 3 Trophy was Georgina Martin’s “Troublemaker.”

First Boat to Finish	Ice Bear	Neal Berger
First Boat to Reversal Point	Troublemaker	Georgina Martin
Division 2: Double Handed, resident in the same household:		
Neal Berger	Ice Bear	1
Eric Young	FanaSea	2
Division 3: Crewed by "Same Social Group" crew up to five:		
Georgina Martin	Troublemaker	1
Bruce Petry	Natural High	2
Mike Norman	Early Dawn	3
Joanne Caple	Wasail	4
John Collins	Spud	5
Dick Duffley	Pyrat	6

Fall Race (Continued)

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Trophies will be awarded to Neal Berger and Georgina Martin at a future SCYC Members' event when Covid-19 permits.

This was a great fun outing for all of the participants. All of the boats were sailed competitively and skillfully.

Bruce Petry provided the images included in this report and a commentary and series of images on the challenging progress of "Troublemaker" and "Pyrat" towards the finish line. Thanks Bruce!

All participants are invited to join us in the Fall Colours Series, which will start under rules consistent with the SCYC Covid-19 Response Plan. For 2020, the Fall Series will be a five-race series, commencing October 18. This will change the published schedule for the series. Details will be published shortly.

Richard Hudson
Fleet Captain