

J/100 TERN WINS DOWNEAST RACEWEEK XIII

Northeast Harbor ME, Aug 11 – The top 3 finishers overall didn't change from 2006 but the order of finish did. This year, Vice Commodore Bob Johnstone of the Northeast Harbor Fleet steered his new J/100 TERN to an overall victory in the 13th running of DownEast RaceWeek to win the "Max" Warburg Memorial Trophy. TERN also won the Morris Trophy as winner of Division II, the Nevin Cup for Div II and the Coxe Trophy for the first day's run of the August Cruise. Winner of the Harry Wilmerding Tray for 2nd overall and the J Boats Trophy for top boat in Division I was Hal Kroeger's Morris 52 FAR OUT, up from 3rd in 2006. Third overall and winner of the Chace Bar Graph for Division III was last year's overall winner, Jeff Becton in his Ohlson 41 Yawl, ARIANA.

The Becton Bowl for the fastest boat, based on cumulative elapsed time for all 4 races was awarded to Sash Spencer and Ted Smith sailing their Tripp ILC 40 HANKERIN'. Another noteworthy performance was that of Marc Heilner in his beautiful Center Harbor 50 HOI-AN who placed 1-2 overall in the first two races to take home the Paul Nevin Perpetual Trophy. DERW combined the Kollegewidgwok YC's Nevin Cup and the NEHF August Cruise for a week long event, August 5-10.

RACE I Sunday's 14.6 mile race was moved down the bay and started by KYC Race Committee of Cluett, Hoppin and Danielson in West Blue Hill Bay at the tip of Tinker Island, under cloudless skies and a light/moderate northerly with a beat to Sand Point, run back to Tinker then a finish off Sand Point. HOI-AN, TERN and CATS PAW were the Division I-II-III winners with HOI-AN taking the overall. It was one of the few areas with wind anywhere in the area. The Kollegewidgwok YC hosted the regatta dinner.

RACE II Monday started out beautiful and windless, but by race time a S-SE breeze appeared. The KYC Committee boat set a 24.5 mile course, upwind from Blue Hill to Tinker Island, with a run to Black Island NE of Bartlett's then a long beat to Ship & Barges Bell. On the run, passing West of Bartlett Island or shooting the Bartlett Narrows was equal in distance with a flood tide. But it was in making the decision on the return that determined the winners. With nothing to lose being 5th in her Division to round Black Island after sailing 6 miles without spinnaker. TERN was the first to elect returning through the Narrows, followed by ARIANA. TERN more than made up for her loss of their spinnaker halyard on the hoist to win Div II and hang in for a 4th overall. While ARIANA pulled out the overall win. HOI-AN completed her sweep of Div I and the Nevin Cup overall. Interestingly, the straight-line distance back through the Narrows was 1.5 miles shorter than around the west side of Bartlett's. And a wind shift toward the east helped these boats slide through the narrows with minimal tacking, taking about a mile out of the distance built by leaders in Division I & II which had reached around the tip of Bartlett to avoid the Narrows.

RACE III With a dire ClearPoint Weather System forecast for Wednesday with lightning, heavy rain, fog, 25+ kt. Winds and 6-8 foot seas, racing was cancelled with competitors advised on Tuesday afternoon. But, Wednesday's lobster roll party at Janneke Neilson's "Over the Way" in Northeast Harbor was a "go" and a great success.

RACE IV Thursday was one of those crisp, clear northwesterly Maine days with the wind gusting to 30 knots. This made for an exciting ride to the starting area in Blue Hill Bay. But, winds moderated to 10-12 knots as forecast by ClearPoint. Fleet PRO, Greg Wilkinson send the fleet off on a beautiful run between Swans Island and Frenchboro, around Long Island then a reach to Great Duck and a long beat to Somes Sound. The fleet never got completely separated as wind holes and building/shifting breezes kept the smaller boats in the hunt. Proof of that and the PHRF Time-on-Time rating system being used resulted in the top 3 boats finishing with a corrected time within 6 seconds of each other after 23.4 miles and the top 4 within 62 seconds, including a Division I boat, 2 Division II boats and a Division III boat. TERN pulled off the win with its 3 person crew. FAR OUT and EVENTYR tied for second and ARIANA 4th. FAR OUT led TERN by ½ point for the overall lead going into the last race. And, Hal & Carol Kroeger were generous hosts of the fleet raft-up in Norwood Cove on a beautiful clear evening.

RACE V Friday did not look good. No wind. The ClearPoint forecast showed a light southerly breeze at noon of 3-4 knots, building along the Manset shore to 6-8 knots by 4 PM with little wind elsewhere. The New York YC Cruise nearby cancelled their racing for the day. PRO Wilkinson postponed for two hours and was then able to get a start off after noon. With a 4 PM time limit, a course was set up within the Great Harbor finishing at Long Ledge en route to Bass Harbor. The first leg was a beat to the Western Way entrance gong, a run back to Spurling Point gong, then a changed shorter beat (no wind then at the WW gong) around NEH Mark L then downwind around Greening Island with a finish at Mark L upwind. Course length was 9.5 miles. The two fastest rated boats HANKERIN' and CYBELE showed their heels to the rest of the fleet, stretching out to finish 1-2 overall, but TERN stayed close behind them to finish 3rd overall and lock up honors for the week with FAR OUT back in 12th for the day.

Top 10 of 23 Overall (Complete results available on <http://downeastraceweek.com>):

(1) TERN, J/100, Bob Johnstone – 12 pts; (2) FAR OUT, Morris 52, Hal Kroeger – 21 pts; (3) ARIANA, Ohlson 41 Yawl, Jeff Becton – 23 pts; (4) EVENTYR, J/42, Gordon Haaland – 26.5 pts; (5) WEATHER GAUGE, Farr 44c, Stocky Smith – 27 pts; (6) BREAKAWAY, J/36, Ed Tarbell – 33 pts; (7) HANKERIN', Tripp ILC40, Sash Spencer & Ted Smith, 35 pts (8) CATS PAW, Lindenberg 28, Butch Minson, 36 pts. (9) CYBELE, IMX 45, David Rockefeller, Jr. & Rick Burnes – 36 pts. (10) SIDEWINDER, J/105, Tom Rolfes – 38 pts.

Top 3 Boat Team: Fleetwings (TERN, WEATHER GAUGE, FAR OUT)

