

Weather disrupts Soundings activity

Shelter Island, N.Y. — The race from New London to Shelter Island wasn't very colorful Friday, as few of the 114 boats competing in the Off Soundings Club Fall Series were brave enough to fly their spinnakers.

That's because the wind conditions, the remnants of Hurricane Hortense, were 15-25 knots, blowing from East to Northeast. Swells rose between three and five feet.

Racing continues today. Following are Friday's corrected results, including handicaps, with gun boats (boats which actually crossed the finish line first) in parenthesis:

■ **Class A1** — 1. J. Robert Gunther Jr., Eastwinds; 2. David C. Noyes, Elixir; 3. W. Frank Bohlen, Tattler; 4. Peter F. Mletschnig, Salty; 5. Linwood S. Mather, Excellence (gun); 6. Peter C. Ross, Tynaje; 7. Robert W. Read, Nepenthe; 8. William Rich Jr. and III, Spindrift; 9. John J. Locher, Huggy Bear; 10. Bill Fortmann, Snowgoose.

■ **Class A2** — 1. Robert A. Rosenblum, Cat's Cradle (gun); 2. John Orzech, Reveille; 3. Peter W. McFadden, Bamboo; 4. John Read, Legacy; 5. Ed Birch, Duet; 6. Nicholas Staub III, Bow-Wow; 7. Robert J. Almeida Jr., Piper Too.

■ **Class B** — 1. Ed Purcell, Just Friends (gun); 2. Kim Granbery, Savili; 3. William Drinkuth, Watercolors; 4. Russell W. Brown, Windrider II; 5. Gerry Keeler, Sanibel; 6. Stuart Dickinson, Fluent; 7. James S. Brown, Eala; 8. Cal Beggs, Mistral; 9. Bob Rhorer, Shenanigan; 10. John R. Saxe, Mandalay.

■ **Class C1** — 1. James G. Dill Jr., Menace; 2. Ben Hall, Wired (gun); 3. Ed Dole, Rogue; 4. Peter Brinckerhoff, Hooligan; 5. John G. Dunn, First Light; 6. USCGA, Rampage; 7. Dave Nickerson/Dana Seniff, Split Decision; 8. James H. Rich Jr. and III, Settler; 9. Greg Gilmartin, Wolfpack; 10. USCGA, Steamboat.

■ **Class C2** — 1. Paul Connor, Hawk; 2. Chuck Saccardo, Odraccas; 3. Bruce Kuryla, Defiant; 4. Alan and A.J. Wasley, Tomahawk; 5. William G. Gunther, Froya; 6. Jack Wills, Jet Stream; 7. Buster Kinsbury, Joyride (gun); 8. John Nevin, Magbooka; 9. Stuart Craig, Goombay Smash; 10. Dirk Lewis, Touchstone.

■ **Class C3** — 1. Bill Canning, Factory (gun); 2. John Bourget, Mast Transit II; 3. Carl Fast, Looney Tunes; 4. Norman B. Peck, Spirit; 5. Bob Gibbs/Brian Gibbs, Capricorn; 6. George Martin, Osprey; 7. Bill Squier, Tenacity II; 8. Larry Hennessy, Luna Sea; 9. Roger Bauman Jr., Defiant.

■ **Class C4** — 1. Ronald and David Walker, Wavewalker (gun); 2. Bill Loweth/Walt Strang, Brer Rabbit III; 3. Jack Washburn, Our Tern; 4. Neal S. O'Connell, Checkered Demon; 5. Jim Francis, Fascination; 6. Thomas Saxe, Aladdin; 7. Dennis J. Marron, Pursuit; 8. John Baird, Celebration; 9. Paul Hewitt, New Wave; 10. Grant Bordon, Elan.

■ **Class C5** — 1. Woody Bergendahl, Risky Business (gun); 2. Bob Puder, Wild Flower; 3. Bijan Rasadi, Anticipation; 4. Toby Doyle, Phoenix; 5. Don Wilkinson, Prophet; 6. Reinhard Sarges, Salud; 7. Kevin Farrar, Nat; 8. Thomas Doyle, C'est La Vie; 9. Douglas Peacock, Second Draft; 10. Robert B. Wylie, Dulcinea.

■ **Cruising Canvas 1** — 1. Walter Carucii, Amazing Grace; 2. Spencer Kloter, Serenity; 3. Jack Haugh, Sparky; 4. Sandy Lieber, Scalawag (gun); 5. S. Edward Jeter, Tranquility; 6. Bruce Lockwood, Arrow; 7. James F. Barrett Jr., Vib.

■ **Cruising Canvas 2** — 1. Robert A. Edmands, Ferien (gun); 2. Clifford Fisher, Rusty-Nail; 3. Irv Rich, Witchcraft; 4. Richard Steinhilber, Starchaser; 5. Tim Evans, Mitime; 6. W.D. Webster, Deliverance; 7. Charles W. Snow Jr., Tern About; 8. William B. Rambow, Scimitar; 9. Wayne Morse, Exorcist; 10. Erst Prelinger, Senta.

Taming the wild spinnaker in a rollicking Nor'easter

Last weekend's Off Soundings Fall Series provided an eventful day for the first race on Friday the 13th.

Wes Maxwell, race committee chairman, was aboard *Nor'Easter*, Henry Dupont's 60-foot motorsailer. The committee boat was aptly named for the conditions, with a rainy northeast wind that gusted over 25 knots at times during the day.

The entire 138-boat fleet was first sent on a long downwind leg from the start off New London Ledge, through The Race, leaving Valiant rock to starboard, to the nun buoy off Cedar Point, near Sag Harbor, in Gardiners Bay.

The combination of wind and sea conditions served up a rollicking, and sometimes wild, spinnaker ride for many of the boats, busting gear on some boats, and scaring crew members on others.

I was aboard the Coast Guard Academy's 30 Dickerson/Seidelman *Tigger*. For those familiar with the boat, the narrow stern and wide beam make heavy-air downwind work difficult. After several minutes of "windshield wiper" slightly-out-of-control rolling, we executed a spectacular windward broach.

That type of knockdown is also



Wharf Rat

John Brooks

called the "pole plant," where the spinnaker pole goes in the water, and the boat pirouettes on her side around the pole and jibes, accidentally. Fortunately, the preventer on the main boom held, so no one was injured by a flying boom. When the mainsail preventer was released, and the boom flew across, the boat came back upright, more or less, and we proceeded to take the spinnaker down. Continuing under main and jib and now under control, if slower, we assessed the damage and injuries — none, thankfully.

Without a wild spinnaker to tame, we continued our progress downwind, enjoying the scenery of spinnakers out of control — on other boats. Although I don't know for sure, I think there were more than a dozen blown-out "chutes," and many boats took their spinnakers down after a knockdown or two.

We did see one intrepid crew — who shall remain unnamed — who got knocked down at least four times, dutifully dousing and reset-

ting their spinnaker. Actually from a racing perspective, that can be a lot slower than sailing under control in a more-or-less straight line to the leeward mark.

Knowing that downwind sailing was not *Tigger's* forte, we all looked forward to "turning the corner" at the leeward mark for an upwind beat where the boat really shines.

I should mention here that *Tigger* is a centerboard boat. One requirement for going upwind is having the centerboard down. We dutifully lowered the board and rounded the nun nicely. Just after getting settled on the upwind leg, we started sliding to leeward.

Simultaneously, the crew on the rail noticed something in the water, fast disappearing astern — our centerboard. While a keel/centerboard-

type boat can make some progress to weather without the board, *Tigger*, alas, could not. Our racing was done for the series.

Progressing in to Dering Harbor, Shelter Island, we joined the rendezvous of boats coming in from the finish.

Everyone, and just about everything, was soggy and wet on all the boats, but it had been a fun sail after all.

Fortunately for me, wife Jeanne came over to meet me by Orient Point Ferry after work, having arranged for a comfortable, dry room for the two of us at the Chequit Inn.

For Saturday's race, the *Tigger* crew got parcelled out among other boats who needed extra crew. Several of us sailed with Paul Hewitt

and Bob Evelyn on Paul's Evelyn 26, *New Wave*, having a terrific race.

The Off Soundings Club combines Friday and Saturday's corrected race times to determine overall results for the series. Among the happy faces at the awards Saturday night was Commodore Bill Gunther, first in class C-2 with his 46-foot ocean racing sloop *Froya*. Prize winners are listed in the related article.

This Saturday and Sunday are the Shennecossett and Baldwin Yacht clubs annual co-hosted "Vixen Ledge Weekend" races. Saturday's race is a benefit for the Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut.

John Brooks, a Mystic resident and an active sailor, works at the Coast Guard Academy waterfront

Off Soundings Fall 96 Weekend Race results

The winners in each class are:

A1

First: *Elixer*, David Noyes
Second: *Eastwinds*, J. Robert Gunther Jr.
Third: *Tattler*, W. Frank Bohlen

A2

First: *Reveille*, John Orzech
Second: *Cat's Cradle*, Robert Rosenblum
Third: *Bamboo*, Peter McFadden

B

First: *Watercolors*, William

C1

First: *Wired*, Ben Hall
Second: *Menace*, James Dill Jr.
Third: *Rampage*, USCGA

C2

First: *Froya*, William Gunther
Second: *Defiant*, Bruce Kuryla
Third: *Hawk*, Paul Connor

C3

First: *Factory Girl*, Bill Canning
Second: *Spirit*, Norman Peck
Third: *Looney Tunes*, Carl Fast

C4

First: *Waveswalker*, Donald and

Strang

Third: *Pursuit*, Dennis Marron

C5

First: *Wild Flower*, Bob Puder
Second: *Anticipation*, Bijan Rasadi
Third: *Risky Business*, Paul Bergendahl

CR1

First: *Amazing Grace*, Walter Carucci
Second: *Sparky*, Jack Haugh
Third: *Serenity*, Kloter/Brouwer

CR2

First: *Rusty Nail*, Clifford Fisher

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Off Soundings Fall Series race results

From F3

6. USCGA, Steamboat; 7. Bardenheier, White Fire; 8. Nickerson/Seniff, Split Decision; 9. Dill Jr., Menace; 10. Dole, Rogue.

Overall, 1. Hall, Wired; 2. Dill Jr., Menace; 3. USCGA, Rampage; 4. Dole, Rogue; 5. Nickerson/Seniff, Split Decision; 6. Connolly/Karenko, Hot Numbers; 7. Rich Jr. and III, Settler; 8. Peter Brinckerhoff, Hooligan; 9. John Dunn, First Light; 10. USCGA, Steamboat.

■ **Class C2** — Saturday (first race). 1. Bruce Kuryla, Defiant; 2. William Gunther, Froya; 3. David Whelan, Angel Under The; 4. Jack Wills, Jet Stream; 5. Paul Connor, Hawk; 6. Ray Gincavage, American Pie; 7. John Nevin, Magbooka; 8. Buster Kinsbury, Joyride; 9. USCGA, Eddystone Light; 10. Dave Dickerson, Lindy.

Saturday (second race), 1. Chuck Saccardo, Odraccas; 2. Gunther, Froya; 3. Whelan, Angel Under The; 4. Kuryla, Defiant; 5. Wills, Jet Stream; 6. Connor, Hawk; 7. USCGA, Eddystone Light; 8. Gincavage, American Pie; 9. Nevin, Magbooka; 10. Dickerson, Lindy.

Overall, 1. Gunther, Froya; 2. Kuryla, Defiant; 3. Connor, Hawk; 4. Wills, Jet Stream; 5. Saccardo, Odraccas; 6. Nevin, Magbooka; 7. Alan and A.J. Wasley, Tomahawk; 8. Gincavage, American Pie; 9. Stuart Craig, Goombay Smash; 10. Kinsbury, Joyride.

■ **Class C3** — Saturday (first race), 1. George Martin, Osprey; 2. Bob Gibbs/Brian Gibbs, Capricorn; 3. Norm Peck, Spirit; 4. Carl Fast, Looney Tunes; 5. Bill Canning, Factory; 6. Larry Hennessy, Luna Sea; 7. Roger Bauman Jr., Defiant; 8. John Bourget, Mast Transit II.

Saturday (second race), 1. Peck, Spirit; 2. Martin, Osprey; 3. Gibbs/Gibbs, Capricorn; 4. Hennessy, Luna Sea; 5. Canning, Factory; 6. Fast, Looney Tunes; 7. Bauman Jr., Defiant; 8. Bourget, Mast Transit II.

Overall, 1. Canning, Factory Girl; 2. Peck, Spirit; 3. Fast, Looney Tunes; 4. Martin, Osprey; 5. Gibbs/Gibbs, Capricorn; 6. Bourget, Mast Transit; 7. Hennessy, Luna Sea; 8. Bauman Jr., Defiant.

■ **Class C4** — Saturday, 1. Dennis Marron, Pursuit; 2. Walt Strang/Bill Loweth, Brer Rabbit III; 3. Thomas Saxe, Aladdin; 4. Paul Hewitt, New Wave; 5. Grant Brandon, Elan; 6. John Baird, Celebration; 7. Ronald and David Walker, Wavewalker; 8. Jim Francis, Fascination; 9. Jack Washburn, Our Tern; 10. Neal O'Connell, Checkered Demon.

Overall, 1. Walker/Walker, Wavewalker; 2. Loweth/Strang, Brer Rabbit III; 3. Marron, Pursuit; 4. Saxe, Aladdin; 5. Washburn, Our Tern; 6. Francis, Fascination; 7. O'Connell, Checkered Demon; 8. Baird, Celebration; 9. Hewitt, New Wave; 10. Brandon, Elan.

■ **Class C5** — Saturday, 1. Bob

Puder, Wild Flower; 2. John Graeb, Persistence; 3. Stephen Grzesik, Holiday; 4. Reinhard Sarges, Salud; 5. Bijan Rasadi, Anticipation; 6. Kevin Farrar, Gnat; 7. Don Wilkinson, Prophet; 8. Robert Wylie, Dulcinea; 9. Thomas Doyle, C'Est La Vie; 10. Toby Doyle, Phoenix.

Overall, 1. Puder, Wild Flower; 2. Rasadi, Anticipation; 3. Woody Bergendahl, Risky Business; 4. Toby Doyle, Phoenix; 5. Sarges, Salud; 6. Wilkinson, Prophet; 7. Farrar, Gnat; 8. Thomas Doyle, C'Est La Vie; 9. Douglas Peacock, Second Draft; 10. Wylie, Dulcinea.

■ **Cruising Canvas 1** — Saturday, 1. Walter Carucci, Amazing Grace; 2. Edward Jeter, Tranquility; 3. Jack Haugh, Sparky; 4. Bruce Lockwood, Arrow; 5. Spencer Kloter, Serenity; 6. James Barrett, Vib; 7. Sandy Lieber, Scalawag.

Overall, 1. Carucci, Amazing Grace; 2. Haugh, Sparky; 3. Kloter, Serenity; 4. Lieber, Scalawag; 5. Jeter, Tranquility; 6. Lockwood, Arrow; 7. Barrett, Vib.

■ **Cruising Canvas 2** — Saturday, 1. Bertil Olsson, Ack-Va-Vit; 2. Clifford Fisher, Rusty-Nail; 3. Irv Rich, Witchcraft; 4. Richard Steinhilber, Starchaser; 5. William Rambow, Scimitar; 6. Wayne Morse, Exorcist; 7. Tim Evans, Mitime; 8. Varrick Harrison, Tiffer; 9. Hugh Luddecke Jr., Puff; 10. Robert Edmands, Ferien.

Overall, 1. Fisher, Rusty-Nail; 2.

Edmands, Ferien; 3. Rich, Witchcraft; 4. Steinhilber, Starchaser; 5. Rambow, Scimitar; 6. Evans, Mitime; 7. W.D. Webster, Deliverance; 8. Olsson, Ack-Va-Vit; 9. Morse, Exorcist; 10. Charles Snow Jr., Tern About.

Off Soundings sailors greeted by calm seas

Shelter Island, N.Y. — Saturday's racing in the Off Soundings Club Fall Series was a little bit calmer than Friday's.

With Friday's winds kicking up to as many as 25 knots and few boats able to use spinnakers, Saturday's wind was between 10-15 knots, starting from the east and ending up coming from the northwest.

Two races were sailed Saturday in Classes C1, C2 and C3.

Following are Saturday's results after corrections for handicaps, followed by overall results for the two days of racing:

■ **Class A1** — Saturday, 1. David Noyes, Elixir; 2. James Slimmon Jr., Irresistible; 3. Frank Bohlen, Tattler; 4. Robert Gunther Jr., Eastwinds; 5. Peter Ross, Tynaje; 6. Bill Fortmann, Snowgoose; 7. Peter Mletschnig, Salty; 8. William Rich Jr. and III, Spindrift; 9. Roy Hood, Summertime; 10. Linwood Mather, Excellence.

Overall, 1. Noyes, Elixir; 2. Gunther Jr., Eastwinds; 3. Bohlen, Tattler; 4. Ross, Tynaje; 5. Mletschnig, Salty; 6. Mather, Excellence; 7. Slimmon Jr., Irresistible; 8. Rich Jr. and III, Spindrift; 9. Robert Read, Nepenite; 10. Fortmann, Snowgoose.

■ **Class A2** — Saturday, 1. John Orzech, Reveille; 2. John Read, Legacy; 3. Peter McFadden, Bamboo; 4. Robert Almeida Jr., Piper Too; 5. Nicholas Staub III, Bow-Wow; 6. Ed Birch, Duet; 7. Robert Rosenblum, Cat's Cradle.

Overall, 1. Orzech, Reveille; 2. Rosenblum, Cat's Cradle; 3. McFadden, Bamboo; 4. Read, Legacy; 5. Staub III, Bow-Wow; 6. Birch, Duet; 7. Almeida, Piper Too.

■ **Class B** — Saturday, 1. William Drinkuth, Watercolors; 2. Gerry Keeler, Sanibel; 3. Ed Purcell, Just Friends; 4. Kim Granbery, Savili; 5. John Saxe, Mandalay; 6. Stuart Dickinson, Fluent; 7. Bob Rhorer, Shenanigan; 8. Russell Brown, Windrider II; 9. Cal Beggs, Mistral; 10. James Brown, Eala.

Overall, 1. Drinkuth, Watercolors; 2. Purcell, Just Friends; 3. Granbery, Savili; 4. Keeler, Sanibel; 5. Brown, Windrider II; 6. Dickinson, Fluent; 7. Beggs, Mistral; 8. Brown, Eala; 9. Saxe, Mandalay; 10. Rhorer, Shenanigan.

■ **Class C1** — Saturday (first race), 1. USCGA, Rampage; 2. Ben Hall, Wired; 3. Dave Nickerson/Dana Seniff, Split Decision; 4. James Dill Jr., Menace; 5. Ed Dole, Rogue; 6. USCGA, Steamboat; 7. Joe Bardenheier, White Fire; 8. James Rich Jr. and III, Settler; 9. Peter Guille, Sterling; 10. Greg Gilmartin, Wolfpack.

Saturday (second race), 1. Hall, Wired; 2. J. Connolly/A. Karenko, Hot Numbers; 3. USCGA, Rampage; 4. Raymond Pride, Louisiana Crude; 5. Rich Jr. and III, Settler;