



The Labor Day weekend this year saw another in a long line (13 or 14 depending on who's counting) of super successful and way-fun "Spud Cup" regattas on beautiful Lake Pend Oreille, just off shore from Sandpoint, Idaho. The Sandpoint Sailing Association (sandpointsailing.com) (SSA) hosts this annual two-day regatta and seems to have a knack for always providing great wind, great courses and boat-loads of fun for everyone. Many members of the SSA worked long hours to make this event a success and it all paid off. Our Vice-Commodore, Dan Lawrence skippered the whole cruise and of particular note is our amazing Committee Boat Crew, Bruce Robertson, Mary Henriksen and Troy Carlson who kept all the many details working so the rest of us could concentrate on racing and partying! And with numerous long time sponsors like Spuds, the Sandpoint restaurant that originally inspired the name for the regatta and provided initial financial support long ago, the event is always a success both from a financial as well as a fun standpoint. (See our great "Spud Cup" T-shirt and/or website for a list of all our generous sponsors.)



This year, though attendance was down a bit from last year (That DANGED economy!), we still had 22 boats in 3 fleets with sailors from 4 states battling it out for the bragging rights associated with 10 coveted trophies. Winds ranged from "Howling" to "Mild" with most right in the middle where it's so much fun to sail. We got 7 great races in during the two days of the regatta. And, just as a "heads-up", next year we hope to host the NW Super 20 fleet (Vipers, i550s, U20s, etc.) and maybe even a SJ/21 fleet so mark your calendars for Labor Day Weekend, 2012 and be there!

The boys (and girls) from Montana managed to give our local hot shot J/24 sailors a taste of humility (and experience) as they took the top three places in a fleet of nine of the popular J boats. Jeff Fisher on "Maniac" took first place followed, two points behind, by Dennis Gregory on "X-Rated". And Pete Sauer, sailing "Bound 4 Glory" finished just one point behind Dennis. These folks can sail a J/24 in their sleep (and probably do)!

In the PHRF A fleet (six "sporty" boats), only one point separated each of the top three finishers. David Cohen's J/90 "Eye Eye" edged out our own Chris Chambers' U-20 "Black Sheep" which was just ahead of Peter Graves' Melges-24 "Chaos". In a couple of the races these boats could have pulled water skiers!

The PHRF B fleet had seven boats in a diverse mix of designs and experience level but a solidly consistent level of fun. We had everything from multi-decade sailors with ocean crossings under their belts to a young crew from North Idaho College sailing their Colgate 26 in their first ever regatta. Our club dominated this fleet with Marc Delavergne taking first place sailing his J/30 "Papillion" to victory over Fred Parks' Choate-27 "Phantom" while Steve Lockwood's J/22 (sans spinnaker) "Oh'Really" took third.



And, finally, the coveted "Spud Cup" (It's a beauty!) went to Jeff Fisher on "Maniac". Congratulations Jeff!

On the social scene, Friday night's registration and BS sessions were lubricated by great kegs of beer donated by Big Sky Brewery's Dennis Gregory and further fueled by the yummy "Spud Dogs", a first time "experiment" of our local salt, Keith Sheckler. Then Saturday night after the races boasted lots more fun banter under the big tent and perfect skies with a great catered dinner and lots of tired but happy sailors. And then, Sunday's hearty breakfast sent everyone out prepared for the three races of the day which ended in time for plenty of "discussion", refreshments and the rousing awards ceremony led by our fearless leader, George Kiselica. What a weekend! I'm already looking forward to next year. Come join us!

Mike Jewell
SSA Past Secretary