
Emily Dellenbaugh & Briana Provencha Win 29er

The 29er Midwinter Regatta was held at the Sarasota Sailing Squadron February 9, 10 & 11th. We had 32 boats which was about what we expected and surprised many of the sailors who had not expected as many boats.

The 29er is a modern skiff design similar to but smaller than the Olympic 49er class but intended for younger sailors with an optimum crew total weight of about 300 pounds. It has a single trapeze and an asymmetrical spinnaker which combined with a fine entry and fat ass back end make it a fast planning boat.

Competitors came from as far away as San Francisco in the US, while there was also a good contingent from across Canada as the regatta would decide which Canadian boys and girls teams would be going to the 2007 Youth World Championships. We were also delighted to have crews from Sweden and Bermuda.

Conditions turned out to be as good as we could have possibly expected. On Thursday we could not get going until around 1:30pm when we had an afternoon thermal breeze fill from the NW at about 8 knots and we were able to run three races. Friday was better with the thermal filling in earlier and winds were augmented toward the end of the day with a frontal system. Five races were held in winds starting at 6 knots and building to 14. Fortunately the frontal system continued on Sunday morning, the only morning breeze that week, and we finished the series with two more races.

Emily Dellenbaugh and Briana Provencha dominated the first two days of the regatta winning five of the first eight races, while on the final day Judge Ryan and Hans Henken won both races to close within three points of the regatta winners. Third place was taken by Ekberg and Wersall from Sweden with 33 points with the Bermudan team of Riihiluoma and Miller just one point behind them.

Overall Results (top 5):

1. Emily Dellenbaugh/Briana Provencha, Connecticut USA 12pts
 2. Judge Ryan/Hans Henken, California, USA 15pts
 3. Charlie Ekberg/Johan Wersall, Sweden 32pts
 4. Oliver Riihiluoma/Peter Miller, Bermuda 33pts
 5. Ian Simms/David Leiberberg, California, USA 45pts
- Canadian youth world championship qualifier - male*
11. Nicholas Kroeger/Peter Soosalu, Montreal, Canada 78pts
- Canadian youth world championship qualifier - female*
15. Alanna Foscarini/Alison Ludzki, Toronto, Canada 97pts

There are many people to thank but at the top of the list I have to thank a close friend for coming to the regatta, Ian Bruce. Best know for building over 120,000 Lasers when he owned that company, he is now the builder of the 29er and arranged for a tractor trailer load of boats to be delivered to the Squadron for charter. In addition, he worked on Race Committee every day running times for me.

Thanks to Jacques and Charlotte Brisson for their work on RC which included flags, recording starts and finishes, results and making sure there was chocolate on the boat. Lainie and Marshall Pardey were out in their Boston Whaler every day faultlessly setting marks in the right places and then stayed up late Saturday night to produce the beautiful awards of framed photographs to the top five finishers. Walt Wyatt put on an excellent salad and lasagna Saturday night supper while Wanda Purzycki made sure breakfast was always laid out and the coffee hot. Thanks also to Pat and Joanne for their support in all areas. And to all the other club members, coaches and parents who all pitched in to help out in so many ways, thanks. Finally, my wife Jocelyne ran registration, results and organized me. To others who contributed whose names I have omitted I humbly beg your forgiveness.

To close shop, the 29ers have asked if they can make their midwinters an annual event at the Squadron. I had many many positive comments from sailors, coaches and parents about how much they enjoyed themselves and how lucky we are to have such a great club and great place to sail – something which I believe we sometimes take for granted. I think it will be fun to have them back and know they will return in greater numbers. It would surely be nice if we host the regatta next year to have a YSP crew competing.

Allan Broadribb, Regatta Chair.

Opposite page photos: (top left) Winners Emily Dellenbaugh & Briana Provencha with awesome trophies made by Lainie & Marshall Pardey; (left awards) Alanna Foscarini & Alison Ludzki with Ian Bruce, they go to the 2007 Youth Worlds for Canada; (right awards) Ian Bruce with Nicholas Kroeger & Peter Soosalu also going to the 2007 Youth Worlds for Canada.

Pics: Lainie Pardey, Charlotte Brisson & Allan Broadribb



... Midwinter Champs at Sarasota Sailing Squadron

