

NHYC Sailors Win Big at Schock Regatta

March 2 & 3, 2010



The 19th Annual W. D. Schock Memorial Regatta, which is hosted by the Newport Harbor Yacht Club, drew sailors from as far away as New York and Bend, Oregon. Forty boats competed in this annual tribute to Bill Schock in what turned out to be absolutely ideal sailing conditions.

Alexander Vucelic of the Manhattan Yacht Club came out to see exactly what Harbor 20 one-design sailing is all about. He actively races an Interclub Dinghy, a boat very similar to our Lehman 12, and thinks Harbor 20 sailing might appeal to sailors in and around Larchmont Harbor. Alexander placed fourth in the Harbor 20 B fleet and had a fantastic time. He was definitely impressed with the level of competition in what he thought was a comfy daysailor.

The sailors from Bend are members of Bill Schock's extended family. Bill's brother Bob grew up at Newport Harbor Yacht Club and was a very competitive International 14 and Falcon sailor in the '50s. He placed second as crew for Bob Davis in the Snipe North Americans and placed second as skipper in the International 14 North Americans.

In this year's Schock Regatta, Bob crewed for Tom Schock in the Harbor 20 A Fleet on Saturday and then turned the crew duty over to his son Spencer on Sunday. Bob's

entourage included his wife Janice, Spencer's wife Heather, and their three young children. They sail the family Lido 14s when vacationing on Lake Coeur d'Alene in Idaho, but this was their first time on a Harbor 20.

If there is one thing we all learned this year, it was to ignore the weatherman. Despite gloomy predictions of pouring down rain, no more than a few sprinkles were felt during the racing. A good, steady southerly breeze in the 10 to 12 knot range made for exceptional sailing on Saturday. NHYC race administrators Jenn Lancaster and Charlie Underwood put the starting line down near Bayshores and set excellent windward/leeward courses. After sending the Harbor 25s off on an extra-long course, Jenn and Charlie fired off five races for the Harbor 20 As and Bs and four for the Lidos. By Sunday morning, most of the front had passed through, and the wind switched to a fresh clearing westerly breeze with puffs up to about 15 knots. This put us back on our favorite courses up the south Lido channel.



Michael Rettie approaches finish line in Harbor 25 #22



Bob Yates, winner of Harbor 20 A fleet

With three straight bullets, Michael Rettie in Harbor 25 #22 took first place honors in his fleet. Winning in the Harbor 20 A fleet was a little more challenging. At the end of the day on Saturday, Bob Yates and Tom Schock, both sailing for NHYC, were tied for first with 15 points; and Bill Menninger, also of NHYC, was just one point behind them. After the final race there was still a narrow 3-point spread between these three boats; and after each threw out his worst race, Bob finished the regatta in first place, with Tom and Bill in a tie for second.

NHYC sailor Jeff Gordon sailed a consistently good series of races to win the Harbor 20 B fleet with just 13 points. Dave O'Hara of the Newport Sea Base was second, and Gary Thorne of BYC was third. It was fun to see Stephen Woodruff out for his first Harbor 20 race in his brand new Harbor 20 #300.

The gusty wind conditions were a bit more wet and challenging for the Lido 14 sailors, but all-in-all it was a great weekend of Lido sailing. NHYC skippers Kurt Wiese and Steve Schupak were the fastest in the A fleet, with Kurt and his crew, John Papadopolous, having a slight advantage over Steve and his wife Anne. Steve and Anne were actually faster off the line and had good speed upwind, but in the end, Kurt and John's extra weight allowed them to point just a bit higher. After throwing out a second place finish, Kurt ended up with seven first place finishes to win the regatta. Steve was second and Greg Rodgers of CBYC was third. Charles and Joanna Smith of South Coast Corinthian Y.C. won the B division.



Kurt Wiese & John Papadopoulos off to a good start

Delicious tacos after the races on Saturday and beautiful trophies presented by Betty Schock made for a perfect regatta weekend.

Brownie Daniels of JoySailing was out on the water with her incredible zoom lens. She is rarely treated to windy weather, so she took hundreds of photos. They can be found on her website.

The link is: <http://www.joysailing.printroom.com/WDSchockMemorialRegatta>.