

TOUGH GROUP COMPETES AT NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

by Larry Cole

The Seaside Park Yacht Club really outdid themselves. Box lunches every day, steak dinner Thursday night, dart throwing contest Friday night, \$2 imported beer, housing, great racing, and wonderful hospitality. With all of that going for them the contestants had a tough time thinking about racing and the weather conditions.

The first day's conditions were light to moderate with the predominant southerly sea breeze never really developing. Also unusual for the area, the wind shifts were quite drastic and if you got caught on the wrong side it was real tube city. Nevertheless, the ultimate leaders seemed to sniff out the shifts since they were always out in front or near the top.

Friday came roaring in, wind-wise, along with some rain. The wind built all day so that by the end of the day there were many casualties: capsizes, breakdowns, and retirees. More of the same on Saturday as the Race Committee was more eager to set the course than the participants were eager to be on it - they were quite slow putting their boats in the water. Also by the end of the day the wind turned the course into survival conditions. Following lunch, prizes were awarded including some special (tradition at Seaside Park YC) trophies consisting of Rabbit Flags

PENGUIN NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP 1991									
	SAIL #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	POINTS
N. Litman	9666	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	79.40
M. Kastel	9700	1	1	6	2	6	2	3	71.10
F. Flaherty	9695	4	6	2	DNF	4	5	6	57.30
B. Dailey	9571	3	4	DNF	DNF	1	4	2	57.00
M. Reid	9667	6	2	7	DNF	5	7	4	53.30
D. Stix	9677	5	8	DNF	DNF	3	3	7	44.20
E. Lidem	8634	7	9	5	3	7	9	9	44.10
D. Fernan	7703	12	10	3	DNF	9	6	5	39.00
L. Cole	9609	9	7	9	DNF	8	11	DNF	26.00
D. Casey	9696	8	5	4	DNF	DNF	DNF	DNF	25.00
D. Fall	9672	10	11	8	DNF	11	10	10	24.00
J. Hall	9679	11	12	DNF	DNF	10	8	8	21.00
W. Wienkop	6700	13	13	10	DNF	DNF	DNF	DNF	6.00

for the youngest competitor which happened to be Erin Casey. Special recognition should go to Vice Commodore John Vanderslice and Jack Chadwick.

Observation: It would appear as if the recession had a large effect on the attendance at the North Americans. Between travel expenses, registration, entertainment, and possibly housing expenses, along with potential unemployment, attendance was probably significantly reduced at this year's North Americans.

Hopefully, things will change, both economically and participation-wise at the Internationals next year on Maryland's eastern shore at Cambridge Yacht Club. Details to follow.

TICKET TO TRAVEL... VIA PENGUIN

During the North American Championship at Seaside Park this summer, instead of counting sheep one night, I counted Class Championships I'd been to. With some effort I reached 16 before falling asleep. This, I am sure, is far from a record but it does cover a period of 30 years and includes a variety of strange and interesting places to sail. Credit the Penguin. It's a small dinky craft, easy to car top or trailer across the country, and we've been from coast to coast and beyond.

Each regatta has its own flavor and is an experience unto itself. This year at Seaside Park we got a lesson in keeping the boat upright in a breeze. Most failed (including me)! At Long Beach in California, the decision was whether to take the anchored aircraft carrier to port or to starboard on the downwind leg. You'd think sailing at 9,000-foot elevation in Lake Dillon, Colorado, would be enough of an experience... and it was, until the mountains sneezed each afternoon and cleaned off the lake. Figuring the currents on the St. Lawrence River in Montreal was a different challenge. Missing the reaching mark at the entrance to Rio harbor in light air and an adverse current while watching 50 boats go by has got to be a record. Other experiences include: meeting a horseshoe crab for the first time - in my boat - courtesy of Len Penso at Little Egg Harbor; watching the awe (and fear) inspiring thunderheads mushroom each afternoon over Lake Ponchartraine in New Orleans.

But what would a regatta be without friends, both old and new?

Most Penguin sailors are more than willing to lend a hand, offer questionable advice, share a beer, or recount some sea story of dubious veracity. Last year at Centerport, Long Island, five previous Class presidents (going back to '65) ended up in the crowd sharing a single large table at a local restaurant. 'Truth',

noting this remarkable gathering, quietly left by the side door.

You all know how much fun it is to sail/race the Penguin, but the Penguin has something more to offer. It's also a ticket to travel; to experience good competition and enjoy friends old and new in interesting places. The Penguin does well whether the water is fresh or salty. See you on the course...

by Frank Flaherty

Mark your calendars for the
Deep Freeze
RCYC
November 23
 For more information contact Joe Hall

Penguin
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through the IPCDA

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Larry Cole (516) 261-0584