

2002 Penguin Internationals

The Internationals got underway Monday afternoon in a 5-8 knot south westerly breeze. Although only two races were planned, PRO Jerry Michaels took advantage of the breeze and ran three races.

Tuesday's forecast called for 10-15 out of the SW, however the actual wind was more like 5-8. The committee again were prompt in getting two races completed by noon. The breeze looked like it would hold, so the fleet headed in for lunch and a refreshing dip in the MRYC pool. In the afternoon, two more races were sailed. The pool was a popular retreat after the races. Regatta organizer Mike Keene did an excellent job coordinating all of the details of the event, down to the popsicles delivered to the competitors on their sail in from the race course. Tuesday evening, after seven races, with one throw-out allowed, Jonathan Bartlett and Steve Lavender were essentially tied, with John MacCausland within striking distance if either of the leaders stumbled.

Wednesday morning, a front that had passed through in the night left a freshening northeasterly breeze. John MacCausland punched out ahead of the pack at the start and won handily around the lengthened course. Lavender and Bartlett dueled with Lavender taking a second. The series was down to the final race, with the winner to be decided by who finished ahead in the last race. After a clean start with a slightly pin favored line but a ride side favored course, Lavender came out of the left center to round ahead at the top mark, followed by Bartlett. Bartlett moved into the lead on the reaches of the modified gold cup course, however Lavender had better speed in the lumpy upwind conditions and sailed back into the lead. MacCausland moved steadily up through the fleet to round the weather mark second time around in third. Steve Lavender and Sue Hamilton took line honors in the final race, which sealed their victory. Jonathan Bartlett, with daughter Ann, finished second and were also awarded the top parent-child team prize. John MacCausland and daughter Erin were third followed by Susan Taylor and daughter Chandlee, sailing in their new Innovator Penguin. Susan was also awarded the Bert and Faith Israel perpetual trophy as the top female skipper. Skip Moorhouse and daughter Ellee were fifth and first in the competitive classic Penguin fleet. Skip also won the Master's trophy for the top skipper over age 50.

The long distance award went to Dottie Rostorfer, sailing with her husband Ron, who made the trip from South Florida.

The race committee was extremely grateful that US Sailing Senior Race Official and former Penguin Class President Roger Brown was available and provided invaluable race management assistance.

Some interesting notes: John MacCausland won the first race of the day, every day.

Jonathan Bartlett had the lowest overall score without a throw-out.

Steve Lavender did not win until the final race, which is when it mattered most.

The only other race winners were Susan Taylor and Sandy Rapp.

Jonathan Bartlett was the only competitor to have all top ten finishes.

Terry Barnes came on strong at the end with a very consistent 2-4-3 set of finishes, second best in the regatta.

The fleet was tightly packed through out the week with very interesting mark roundings and close duels on the offwind legs.

Boat distribution was : 4 Innovators, 7 Fiberglas Burtis, 9 Horners, 2 Freedom, 2 Austin, and three from other builders.