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The Curved Mast

Commodore: Fred Roy
Newsletter Ed.: Alan Silken

Narragansett Bay Herreshoff S Class Association Newsletter

2012 NYYC Race Week at Newport Presented by Rolex

The NYYC Race Week Classic Regatta only comes every other year, so the event is greeted with much anticipation. The S Class first entered the NYYC Classic in 2008, when *Vindex* triumphed with remarkable scores of 1-1-4 in a three race series with Paul DelNero at the helm. Two years later in the 2010 Race Week Regatta, *Firefly* with Cory Silken at helm set a high bar with an incredible performance record of 1-1-1-4 over four races. This year, Mike McCaffrey made a great comeback with scores of 4-3-1-1 to take the 2012 honors. *Argument* with Stephan Sloan on the tiller held the lead after the first day of racing, but encountered difficulty on day 2, taking 3rd overall. Leeds Mitchell IV, making his S Class debut this season, drove *Swallow* impressively, taking 2nd overall. The high level of close competition was demonstrated by a four-way tie for 3rd place after day 1 *(Swallow-Surprise-Aquila-Firefly*). After four races, it was *Osprey* (M. McCaffrey/S. Whitehouse) - *Swallow* (L. Mitchell IV) - *Argument* (S. Sloan) - *Firefly* (A. Silken) - *Aquila* (A. Davis) - *Pirate* (M. Cuddy/R. Patterson) - *Surprise* (F. Roy) - *Shona* (R. Hutchinson) - *Mischief* (W. Bopp).

The S Class has made its presence known, being the largest classic fleet this year, and the thrill of racing one-design yachts head-to-head in close quarters was as impressive to watch as it was to participate in. The fleet fulfills the Herreshoff legacy of gorgeous classic yachts crossing the bay in an exquisite display of splendor.

RACE 1, Saturday, July 14:

A fresh sea breeze filled in quickly from the southwest after an hour's delay, and built to 14-15 kts.The course was windward, leeward, windward, and then another leeward spinnaker run to the finish. With an initial spark of potential, Alan Silken guided *Firefly* to the lead by a narrow margin at the first weather mark. After four hard fought legs, it was a drag race under spinnaker to the finish with *Firefly, Swallow, Aquil*a, and *Osprey* bow to bow, neck and neck. At the line, it was a photo finish, one of the most exciting S boat races with just inches separating the boats: *Aquila, Swallow, Firefly, Osprey.* Check out the dramatic YouTube video on the NYYC website here: 2012 NYYC RW Video Day 1

RACE 2 Sat., July 14:

The RC kept the same windward—leeward--windward-leeward course, but extended the length of each leg, making a longer course running to the end of the day. The SW breeze remained strong, 14-15 kts. *Argument* and *Surprise*

took off from the start, *Surprise* with Fred Roy on helm showing brilliant strategy and great boat speed on all points of sail right on *Argument's* heels. After a couple of hours of close tacking duels, down wind maneuvering, and congested mark roundings, at the finish it was: *Argument - Surprise - Osprey - Pirate - Shona - Firefly - Swallow - Aquila - Mischief.*

At the end of the first day of racing *Argument* held the lead over *Osprey* by one point, with four boats tied for 3rd place! It does not get any closer than that-- a true measure of the sailing skill and high level of competitiveness of all the S boat skippers.

RACE 3 Sunday, July 15:

A fair breeze built steadily to about 12 kts. Today the RC chose to set the start close to the eastern shore of the bay, in the vicinity of a commercial fish farm. In the prestart maneuvers, one 12 Meter yacht appeared to run aground, and 6 Meter, *Cherokee*, had a collision, losing her head stay and retiring from further racing. After the starting gun, boats at the pin end on starboard tack soon encountered the shoreline and were forced to tack into the oncoming fleet, creating numerous port-starboard encounters. However, *Osprey*, had a well timed start at the leeward end of the line and was able to cross the fleet. *Argumen*t also did well with a good start and went to work battling *Osprey*. At the windward mark, it was *Osprey, Argument, Swallow* and the fleet. At the finish it was *Osprey, Argument, Swallow, Pirate, Firefly, Surprise, Aquila, Shona, and Mischief*.

RACE 4, Sunday, July 15:

The course was set again to windward-leeward-windward-leeward, but with an additional final long windward leg. This time it was *Firefly* on the line at the pin with good boat speed. *Pirate* was over early and re-rounded the end of the line but made a good recovery. At this point, *Argument* and *Osprey* were tied for first overall. In the pre-start maneuvers, *Osprey* was busy fending off *Argument* and ended up at the starboard end of the line heading out on port tack. At the first right hand shift *Osprey* tacked to starboard crossing the fleet. Meanwhile, *Firefly* was soon forced to tack onto port due to the approaching shoreline, but was immediately confronted by the need to duck several starboard tack boats.Tacking back to starboard was not an option adjacent to the shoreline. The starting line was set so close to shore that numerous port-starboard confrontations ensued, including *Aquila* starboarding *Argument*. *Firefly* was forced into yet another crash tack to avoid *Argument*. Now *Firefly* was on the shore yet again, hailing for sea room. *Osprey* was able to expoit this chaos and pull further away from the fleet. At the windward mark it was *Osprey*, *Swallow, Firefly* and the fleet, but there was a long race yet to go. *Mischief* showed a burst of downwind speed, but suffered a breakdown and fell behind. *Surprise* and *Shona* did well along the shore, while *Pirate* sailed the shifts off the shore in the adverse current.

By the final upwind leg, it was *Osprey* with a comfortable lead, followed by *Swallow, Pirate*, and *Aquila* with *Firefly* right on her stern. A brisk tacking duel ensued with *Aquila* matching *Firefly* tack for tack. The finish line was set along the shore between red bell racing mark "X" and the restricted Navy zone. As *Aquila* and *Firefly* tacked along the shore *Firefly* was finally able to work her way slightly windward and astern of *Aquila* hoping to gain a controlling position when BANG! *Firefly* struck a rock. The boat bounced, pivoted from port tack to starboard tack. Bea heroically held the mainsheet to prevent the boom from encountering Curt, who had gone overboard and was clinging to the port backstays. While the MOB may have appeared inadvertent, the shift in ballast was fortuitous, resulting in *Firefly* floating free and resuming the race on port tack. *Aquila* escaped *Firefly's* threat. But *Shona, Argument, Surprise, and Mischief* weren't able to profit from the mishap. The finish was not far away and at the line it was: *Osprey, Swallow, Pirate, Aquila, Firefly, Shona, Argument, Surprise, Mischief*. ■

NYYC Race Week Results

Herreshoff S Class 7									
1.	USA 8	Osprey	Herreshoff S Class	Michael Mccaffrey	4	3	1	1	9.0
2.	USA 24	Swallow	Herreshoff S Class	Leeds Mitchell IV	2	7	3	2	14.0
3.	USA 22	Argument	Herreshoff S Class	Stephan Sloan	5	1	2	7	15.0
4.	USA 7	Firefly	Herreshoff S Class	Alan Silken	3	6	5	5	19.0
5.	51	Aquila	Herreshoff S Class	Angus Davis	1	8	7	4	20.0
6.	USA 63	Pirate	Herreshoff S Class	Robert Patterson	9	4	4	3	20.0
7.	USA 5	Surprise	Herreshoff S Class	Fred Roy	7	2	6	8	23.0
8.	USA 15	Shona	Herreshoff S Class	Robert Hutchinson	6	5	8	6	25.0
9.	USA 27	Mischief	Herreshoff S Class	Walter Bopp	8	9	9	9	35.0
10.	USA 14	Wistful	Herreshoff S Class	John Migliaccio	11/DNC	11/DNC	11/DNC	11/DNC	44.0

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2012 SEASON STANDINGS

2012 NBHSCA Series

S Class

				NYYC Annual			NYYC Race Week				Doc Cuddy	
Div Rank	**Boat Name**	**Sail No.**	**Div Pts**	**1**	**2**	**3**	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Osprey	8	0.9567	70.00	66.00	(62.00)	(62.00)	66.00	76.00	76.00	66.00	66.00
2	Argument	22	0.8957	76.00	72.00	(50.00)	59.00	76.00	70.00	(54.00)	46.00	56.00
3	Swallow	24	0.8716	66.00	58.00	66.00	70.00	(54.00)	66.00	70.00	(52.00)	52.00
4	Firefly	7	0.8192	(56.00)	55.00	72.00	66.00	56.00	59.00	59.00	(0c)	(0c)
5	Pirate	63	0.8165	(0c)	(0c)	(0c)	50.00	62.00	62.00	66.00	56.00	60.00
6	Aquila	51	0.7780	59.00	(0c)	(0c)	76.00	52.00	54.00	62.00	(42f)	44.00
7	Surprise	5	0.7717	(52.00)	62.00	(48.00)	54.00	70.00	56.00	52.00	49.00	49.00
8	Shona	15	0.7546	(0c)	(0c)	(0c)	56.00	59.00	52.00	56.00	60.00	46.00
9	Mischief	27	0.7188	62.00	50.00	58.00	52.00	(50.00)	50.00	50.00	(0c)	(0c)
10	Wistful	14	0.7182	54.00	52.00	52.00	(0c)	(0c)	(0c)	(0c)	(0c)	(0c)
11	Whistler	3	0.6955	50.00	48.00	55.00	(0c)	(0c)	(0c)	(0c)	(0c)	(0c)

( ) = Thrown out
a = average
% = Percent Penalty
q = DSQ, OCS, RAF, DNE, DGM
DNQ = Not Qualified
r = RDG

c = DNC
s = DNS
f = DNF
t = TLE
b = BFD

Number of Boats in Series 11

Version 6.44

Using Cox-Sprague Series Scoring

Questions? Contact: Fred Roy

Scoring Program by Quick Score -**For Program Information visit www.QuickScoreRace.com** or Email dan.hollands@gmail.com
Do **NOT** contact Quick Score about the results of this race series

Commodore's Quarters

Fred Roy

Doc Cuddy Regatta

July 21-22, 2012

Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen:

Well, another Doc Cuddy Regatta has passed. It was during the summer of 1998 when we held the first race at Ohio Ledge . The race was held to honor someone, who like many of the boat owners, had a passion for the boats long beyond racing them. Doc was not the easiest man to get know, especially if you were 22 years old at the time, the Pelham in Newport was your entertainment venue, and your music experience was rock bands. Doc, on the other hand believed the violin was the best instrument ever invented and his knowledge of classical music was beyond compare.

On the race course he was extremely competitive; some of the older guard in our group can

attest to that sailing against him and just look at the Cuddy name on the trophies sometime. He passed that prowess onto the boys, Mac, Micheal, and Lou. His boat came from Marblehead, *Fandee* was her name and she was launched in 1927. Her name changed to *Volante* in the 1930's. 1943 made it to Narragansett Bay, and Doc bought her in 1949, changed the name to *MicMac*, for his two boys Mike and Mac. Michael had it restored by Frank McCaffrey in the 90's and she is now in Quissett Harbor, back to the name *Volante*.

Doc taught me how to race the S boat and increased my appreciation of what the S boat could do beyond racing. He also taught me and his sons about *Corinthian spirit*, and there have been times I have seen him drop from a race because someone told him he touched a mark well after the fact. I have also experienced similar instances sailing with his sons.

I would like to thank **Bob Patterson and his wife Patty, from Pirate,** for opening their house up this year up in Pawtuxett ,and the wonderful spread they put on for us. As usual the food and company were great, as attested by the people who attended. Right next door to their place sat 11 S boats in the Pettis Boat Yard in the 1980's-1990's. It was a great sight to see and experience.

Would also like to thank, **Dyer Jones and the Herreshoff Marine Museum** for being the governing body for the race weekend, and both PRO's- **Dave Swanson and Richard Barker**. Both days had their challenges for the racing. You guys did a great job.

Stephan Sloan, for providing the RC boat for Sunday's race. He is going to be a great new commodore. :) **Mike McCaffrey** continues to show that he is the most savvy skipper of the group, sailing to the southerly in the light winds (big gamble) on Saturday and playing the tides on Sunday with a flawless race course. **Hutch** has been showing us he can finish in the top when he focuses. His light air sailing was well played on Saturday. Of course, **Bob Patterson, Mac Cuddy, and Lou Cuddy,** are always a force to reckon with. I am sure they have their sights set on the Herreshoff Regatta. Finally, this **Leeds Mitchell** guy, on Swallow 24 (who is he?). He was suppose to bring up the rear his first year sailing S boats, but continues to claw his way to the top. Let's see on August 24th.

Well, I leave you with that. Sign up for Herreshoff Regatta soon, and reserve a mooring if needed. See you all in 24 days or so.

Most kind regards,
Fred Roy
Narragansett Bay Herreshoff S Class Association

As each slaty wall of water approached, it shut all else from the view of the men in the boat, and it was not difficult to imagine that this particular wave was the final outburst of the ocean, the last effort of the grim water. There was a terrible grace in the move of the waves, and they came in silence, save for the snarling of the crests.

-- from *The Open Boat* by Stephen Crane