

With 16 boats on the line, the J/24 fleet was the largest fleet of the weekend. Photo by Jan Anderson.

The 2014 Sperry Top-Sider NOOD (National Offshore One-Design) Regatta once again proved to be three days of challenging Pacific Northwest one-design competition. Organized by Sailing World Magazine, the Sperry Top-Sider NOOD attracted International sailors and one-design classes from across the Western United States, Canada, New Jersey and even Hawaii. Since the 2008 debut of the Seattle NOOD, Pacific Northwest sailors have embraced the buoy racing

venue, bringing together a diverse and competitive gathering of keelboats, skiffs, F-18 catamarans and dinghy racing boats. Altogether, 116 sailboats registered for the Seattle NOOD. With 17 classes, the fleet would be spread across the eastern shore of the Puget Sound, racing in one of three designated course areas.

The local hosts of the Sperry Top-Sider Seattle NOOD, would be the Corinthian Yacht Club of Seattle and the Seattle Yacht Club. Managing a large

one-design sailing event, such as the NOOD, is not an easy task. Both yacht clubs are nationally known for their professionalism in race management. The experience gained racing with the Corinthian Yacht Club and Seattle Yacht Club has made Pacific Northwest sailors some of the most versatile and skilled sailors in the nation.

As a national regatta, the NOOD offers an exceptional venue for one-design competition. One-design is by far the most competitive of sailboat

William McKinnon and crew aboard "Skye Rocket," take second in the J/80 fleet. Photo by Jan Anderson.



racing. Racing level, boat for boat, where the first over the line wins is, for many sailors, a very alluring challenge. Outside of the boat, it's a game of strategy and tactics, where outwitting your opponent is paramount. Inside the boat, it is a matter of boat handling and crew dynamics. Keeping the boat at its optimum speed and sailing the shortest course is key to winning. How well the crew works together dynamically is critical to outperforming your competition. Maintaining focus

throughout a multi-day race can be the hardest task off all.

Day one of the NOOD began with an air of anticipation as the parade of keelboat classes slowly made their way out to the Sound to check the conditions and warm up for the days racing. Divided into two courses, the fleet split. The south course, located just off of Meadow Point, was alive with strong ebbing currents and southerly breeze. The breeze held through the day to run as many as five races among the J/24s, Thunderbirds, Viper 640s,

J/70s, San Juan 21s and the Merit 25s. The larger keelboats, including the J/105s, Farr 30s, Melges 24s, J/80s and the classic International 6 Meter, headed further north near Richmond Beach to take advantage of the best available breeze. The conditions would hold for three long races until the sun broke through the clouds and the breeze calmed.

The boats earning straight bullets and tied for best overall fleet performance for the day would be shared between Marc Vander Schalie's family-sailed San Juan 21 *Kermit*, Andrew Hamilton's Farr 30 *Through* and Rodger Phillips' International 6 Meter *Frenzy*. The pace and intensity had been set for the next two days. For most fleets, it was still anyone's regatta.

Day two began with building excitement as the International Formula 18 Catamaran (F-18), Star, Laser, HOOT and Snipe boats prepared for their first day of racing. With a forecast of moderate winds and strong tidal currents, the boats sailed out into the Sound, more impressive in numbers than day one. Three courses were set to manage the additional boat classes.



On the Shilshole Bay Course the soft southerly breeze would keep the competition on a constant hunt for consistent pressure. In the swift and agile F-18 class Ben Colwell's *Rum Line*, Todd Christensen's C2 *Shrek3* and Rod Barman's *Catnip* would be in a constant fight for the top three podium positions. As the fourth largest fleet, the Laser and

Laser radial fleet would also see close competition with Michael O'Brien's Feats of Strength holding tight to the top podium spot. The Olympic Star class would become a steady match race between Derek DeCouteau and Dave Watt.

The Meadow Point course would see sunshine and breeze shifting from



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1 USA 151 Crazy Ivan Bryan F		USA 79 Just Listed Sail Northwest
2 USA 1 Skye Rocket William Mc		USA 80 Peridot Andrew Mesher
3 USA 331 Fearful Symmetry Lek Dim		USA 19 DaSpencer Michael Pitt
4 USA 44 Taj Mahal Dulnath Wija		•
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7 USA 475 Usawi Robert B		USA 986 Wooglin Chris Popich
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3 USA 498 Keith H		USA 897 Mizu Christian Lamp
4 CAN 371 Lekker G&M Ga		lerit 25
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	n Klute 2	USA 69896 Paradox Rhys Balmer
. ,	rb Cole 3	USA 87938 Runaway David Paligo
8 CAN 11 Goes to Eleven Duncan S		•
	n Rahn 5	USA 69024 Little White Rabbit Nick Fannin
10 USA 620 Brio Manfred Sc	hmiedl	Division C Racing One Design Division
11 USA 520 Comfort MonkeyDon/Garrett		tar
12 USA 417 Rogue Alex Ki		USA 7620 Misty Derek DeCouteau
13 USA 161 Don't Pass the Buck Davi		
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1 USA 107 Frenzy Rodger I	Phillips 1	USA 204477 Feats of Strength Michael O'Brien
2 USA 81 Goose Peter Ho		USA 206068 Carlos Abisambra
	Martin 3	USA 204234 David Brink
	White 4	USA 200192 D22 Kurt Hoehne
5 GBR 102 Bear Andy	Parker 5	USA 199207 Streaker Jay Winberg
6 USA 97 Saga Kris	Bundy 6	USA 176176 Jacques Garrigues
Farr 30	7	USA 206066 MPH Dan Falk
1 CAN 18 Through Andrew Ha	milton 8	USA 191552 Talia Toland
2 USA 691 Dopamine Patrick Na	ughton H (00T
3 USA 704 Patricia Chris T	utmark 1	111 Ulular Todd Twigg
	e Chan 2	USA 08 Hoot Jake White
5 USA 55 Bat Out Of Hell Lance Sta	ughton 3	CAN 12 Dyspareunia Michael France
6 USA 64 Project Mayhem Grady N		USA 10 Toot Chris Maas
7 USA 53 Nefarious Dan Ra		iternational Formula 18
	Didyk 1	USA 750 Rum Line Ben Colwell
Division B Racing One Design Divis		324 Catnip Rod Barman
Viper 640	3	USA 329 ShackAttack Ken Marshack
1 USA 129 Kaa Garrett		USA 7007 Shrek 3 Todd Christensen
2 USA 174 Whack-a-Mole Douglas Stur		CAN 92 Team Storm Brian Hunt
•	Holden 6	CAN 7 Nauti Gear Mark Jones
0)	eswick 7	
J/24	8	USA 2217 99 Problems Chris Gross
1 USA 2365 Baba Louie Pat Dore/Chris		nipe
	Dursch 1	USA 29015 MindRacer Katia Smith
3 USA 5471 Tremendous Slouch Scot		USA 28472 Wasabi Cliff Wright
	Travis 3	USA 29905 Etude Tom Colligan
•	Miller 4	USA 28141 OCD Jeffrey Crombie
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8 USA 2171 Jailbreak Lydia Volk		orth Rally Class Parfactly Strange Booket Booket 22 Paul Kaling
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Mark Daniel

Luigi Confalone

a soft southerly to a chilly northerly late in the morning. The CYC race committee worked diligently to run as many as three races. The crew that was able to play the critical shifts and break away in the best current and breeze would horizon their respective fleets. Racing in the San Juan 21 NW District Championships, Marc Vander Schalie's Kermit would play the shifts perfectly throughout the day. The largest fleet at the regatta, the J/24, would experience extremely close racing with the top half of the fleet each vying for the podium. Holding their National Championship this year at the Seattle NOOD, the Merit 25's competition would be too close to call, right up until the end.

The north course would have similar conditions to the south courses, keeping the SYC race committee working hard to run as many as two races. The second largest fleet of the regatta, the Melges 24 racing in their Pacific Coast Championship, had the most competitive fleet action with packed mark roundings and close course exchanges. The classic International 6 Metre was the showcase of the regatta with it's beautiful lines. Rodger Phillips' savy team aboard Frenzy would have their work cut out for them to hold off Peter Hofmann's Goose and Don Martin's Saskia II to keep ahead. The J/105s, with seven boats racing would see mere seconds between boats on the course with Jerry Diercks' Delirium tied for the lead with newcomer Todd Rickard aboard the SeaMist.

With Andrew Hamilton's Through solidly in first, the race for the remaining two podium spots of the Farr 30 West Coast Championships would be fought between Grady Morgan's Project Mayhem, Patrick Naughton's Dopamine, Bruce Chan's 65 Red Roses and Chris Tutmark's Patricia.

Debuting in this year's NOOD was the North Rally Race; a one day, random leg, PHRF-scored race for new-to-racing sailors, families and custom boats that don't typically fit within the Regatta's one-design concept.

Day three of the NOOD was met with a southwesterly and plentiful sunshine. The stage was set for the final play of the Regatta. After two days of tight competition, those holding on to first place positions would have their work cut out for them. For most, who

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14 USA 3747 Roshambo

15 USA 3695 Allegria

would have the remaining will and determination to make the podium.

In the Viper 640 fleet, Garrett Johns' Kaa, would be sitting in first by just one point ahead of Douglas Stumberger's Whack-a-Mole. The burgeoning northwest J/70's fleet saw strong completion with Andrew Mesher's Peridot and Michael Pitt's DaSpencer fighting tooth and nail for podium positions. The HOOT fleet would be decided with just a few critical races. In the J/80 fleet Bryan Rhodes' Crazy Ivan held a narrow lead with William McKinnon's Skye Rocket and Lek Dimarucot's Fearful Symmetry hot on his heels. The Snipe fleet was still too close to call, and among the top three boats it was still anybody's regatta. In the classic Northwest Thunderbird fleet, Mike Dotson's Invader would need to pull out all the stops to break his tie with Stuart Burnell's Kuma San.

By the end of day three, as the winds finally calmed, the Sperry Top-Sider NOOD proved to be a rewarding regatta for all. The boats that maintained the most consistent and competitive performance during the regatta finished with the greatest of expectations. Ultimately, at the end of the day, the payoff was having the most fun possible, while racing with the people you enjoy sailing with the most.

The overall winner of the Seattle NOOD with the honor of racing in the Caribbean at the Sperry Top-Sider NOOD Championship went to Chris Snow and his team on the J/24 Baba Louie. Congratulations Chris!

by Joshua May



Above: The second largest fleet of the regatta, the Melges 24 racing in their Pacific Coast Championship.

Below: The classic International 6 Metre are always so elegant.

Lower left: The always competitive Laser fleet.

Lower right: The overall winner of the Seattle NOOD went to Chris Snow and his team on the J/24 "Baba Louie." Photos by Jan Anderson.



