

Sloop Tavern Yacht Club Race to the Straits



As the 13th Annual Race to the Straits was fast approaching, it's fair to say the actual number of registered participants wasn't as much a priority for me as watching the weather. The weather which, after a week of spectacular sun and listless breeze on the water would, at the very least, cooperate for what may be the largest and fastest sleigh ride to Port Townsend many had ever witnessed.

Individual ratings for this race are built into each respective start time, for a theoretical epic chase to the finish line where the first boat across the line would claim the victory. A record number of sailboats crossed the start line at Shilshole, Saturday morning, with the early starters heading out in the ebb with a strong southerly, both of which would serve the fleet at varying degrees throughout the day.

134 Registered Participants!

Above: Glorious sailing at Double Bluff on Bill Fraser's Tartan 37, "Tir No nOg."

Below: Douglas Barlow's Corsair F28-R, "Alii Kai" takes first in the Multihull Fleet.

Photos by Jan Anderson.



Racers found a particularly strong wind at Double Bluff, where more than a few boats would find themselves rounding up or down. Around noon, I saw the first spinnaker peeking out from around Marrowstone. "Holy crap!" I exclaimed, having just barely oriented myself in Port Townsend for the day ahead. I hailed the race committee. "Are you on station? Are you guys ready? We have spinnakers around Marrowstone!" "...Um, this is the race committee..." I heard them gently reply. "Three boats have finished already." I raced to the marina just in time to see John Phillips' *Cleo na Mar* heading through the breakwater - the highest-rated, earliest boat to depart from Shilshole just before 8:00am - grinning ear to ear with victory. "Every dog has his day!" He laughed. Sure enough, that Alberg 30 would be fed a nice juicy steak in

Port Townsend, and that steak was the new halfway winner victory flag fashioned by Ballard Sails.

Within an hour the entire fleet would surround the breakwater just in time for the wind to pick back up as the fleet waited as patiently as one can while sloshing about amidst a hundred other boats, some still sporting the carnage of the windy race wrapped around various lengths of forestay and shrouds. Even so, not even those limping into the marina with or without the help of Skip and Jan Anderson on the safety vessel, could hide the exhilaration of such an epic sleigh ride, with some only a few minutes shy of breaking the elusive 'Port Townsend Dash' record of 2 hours and 45 minutes



Top: This could easily be the largest and fastest sleigh ride to Port Townsend with 134 boats registered, including "Delirium," "Cyrano," "Monkey Bones" and "Merry Maker."



Center: "Every dog has his day!" laughs John Phillips, of his Alberg 30, "Cleo na mar," who was presented in Port Townsend with the halfway winner victory flag, fashioned by Ballard Sails.

Bottom: "Ablissian," "Serafina," and "Plan R," flying by Double Bluff on their way to Port Townsend.

Photos by Jan Anderson.

for the 30-mile trip.

With everyone poured into the marina for the night, the halfway party went off without a hitch and ended a rewarding day of sailing. Sunday would be a different story on the water, with many participants choosing not to suffer through a 25+ knot day in the opposite direction. Saturday's ebb and southerly were now Sunday's ebb and southerly, with a long day ahead to weather. As the day went on, roughly half the fleet would end up calling it quits, with the other half reaching Shilshole wet and windburned from a spectacularly exhausting double

continued on next page...



(or single)-handed day. Scott Walsh's *Poore Decisions* made the 7:00pm time limit with exactly 27 seconds to spare, before a heart wrenching lack of finish horn would follow for the few steadfast racers left on the course who would nevertheless see it all through in good spirits. As Adam Yuret of *The Banana Stand* remarked, "Forecast is calling for 25kts southeast for the bit where we need to go southeast. Then south for the bit where we turn south. Three knot adverse current. Today we pay



for yesterday's sleigh ride. It doesn't always have to be fun, to be fun."

A huge thank you to the crews of *Cleo Na Mar*, *Priorities*, and *Last Tango* for the extraordinary assistance to Stephanie and Andy Schwenk's dismasted Santa Cruz 27, *Wild Rumpus*.

— by Ashley Bell

Dave Stromquist's "Blown Away" has an apropos name for the day.

Photo by Jan Anderson

Race to the Straits 2014

Pl	Boat	Type	Skipper
----	------	------	---------

Class 1 - Single Handed Flying Sails

1	Alternate Reality	Expr 27	Darrel Jensen
2	Ta' Ata Ori	Mariner 40 Ketch	Jim Leising

Class 2 - Double Handed Non-Flying Sails

1	Weatherly	S&S 53	McDonough/Barron
2	Grayling	Q-Class	Duke H. Phan
3	Serafina	Cape George	Syd Stapleton
4	Anicca	Catalina 30	Richard Kerby
5	Astraea	J/35C	Chris Brown
6	Tsunami	Tartan 37	Michele Trombley

Class 3 - Double Handed Non-Flying Sails

1	Blue Lullaby	Newport 28	John Endresen
2	Double Trouble	San Juan 24	Robert Kirkman
3	Bamboo	CAL 2-27	Mikey
4	Antsea	C&C 29	Mike Cain
5	Guenivere	Ranger 29	Jon Hoskins

Class 4 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Kynos	Custom 57	Frederic Laffitte
2	Madrona	Buchan 40	Lindsay
3	Terremoto	Riptide 35	Bill Weinstein
4	ACE	Farr 395	Zig Burzyck
5	Gray Wolf	Lyman Morse 40	Evgeniy
6	White Cloud	Cookson 12m	Steve Johnson

Class 5 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Hinzite	J/120	James
2	Tantivy	J/109	Stuart Burnell
3	Patricia	Farr 30	Chris Tutmark
4	Nefarious	Farr 30	Dan Randolph
5	Bat Out Of Hell	Farr 30	Lance Staughton
6	Project Mayhem	Farr 30	Grady Morgan
7	Taking Off	J/35	Russ Engbrecht
8	Tantalus	Express 37-2	Ole Hovland
9	McSwoosh	11 Meter X	Justin Hinchcliffe
10	Bonnie	Miller Marine 44'	Max Callaghan
11	Solution	J/35	Tyson

Class 6 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Different Drummer	Cent 40s	Charles Hill
2	Kotuku	Farr 1220	Graeme Esarey
3	Monkeybones	J/36	Dougherty/Andrews
4	Merry Maker	J/37C	Bill Harter
5	Dangerous When Wet	Davison 30	Nathan Dye
6	Haiyaha	C&C 41	Kelly Busey
7	Uno	Sierra 26x	Brad Butler

Class 7 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Jubilee	J/105	Erik
2	Dulcinea	J/105 M & T	Gardner-Brown
3	Delirium	J/105	Henderson/Barber
4	Usawi	J/105	Blaylock & Laky
5	Cyrano	J/105	Ian Wesley-Smith

6	Life is Good	J/105	Joanne Donohue
7	Last Tango	J/105	Jim G & Lisa C

Class 8 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Carmanah	C&C 43 Custom	J & D DeMeyer
2	Wildflower	J/35c	Tom Mitchell
3	Poke and Destroy	Evelyn 32-2	Simanis/Smith
4	Brio	Melges 24	Manfred Schmiedl
5	Kinetics	Nordic 44	Brad Greene
6	Sunnisu	Hobie 33	Heidi Haight
7	Wholesome 30	Olson 30	Jan & Pearl Thijssen

Class 9 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Madame Pele	Davidson 29	Tom Andrewes
2	Muffin	Santa Cruz 33	Garry Greth
3	Plan R	J/29	Paul Hanson
4	Gaucha	Ross 930	John Cahill
5	Hagar	3/4 ton	Joe Grieser
6	First Edition	Humboldt 30	W. Niedringhaus
7	Here & Now	J/29M	Pat Denney
8	Scimitar	Custom Martin 30	Kirk Utter
9	Orphan Girl	J/29MH	Skip Simpson
10	Ogopogo	Left Coast Dart	Paul & April Faget

Class 10 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Kowloon	Olson 911	Ken Chin
2	Blue Martini	Olson 911	Laney Gale
3	Tir Na nOg	Tartan 37	Bill Fraser
4	Blackout	Santana 3030	Cody Pinion
5	Mara	Buchan 37	Greg Barckert
6	Priya	Ericson 38-200	Brandt Faatz
7	Otava	Jean Sun 38	Jerry Nuernberger
8	Blown Away II	Bene First 375	Dave Stromquist
9	Astrild	Swan 37	Arnie Hammer

Class 11 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	LXIII	J/27	Dennis
2	True North	J/27	Andy Mack
3	Zipper	SC 27	Alexia Fischer
4	Wild Rumpus	SC 27	Stephanie Schwenk
5	Thunder Muscle	SC 27	Christa Bassett Ross
6	The Banana Stand	SC 27	Adam Yuret
7	Wizard	J/27	Leo Morales
8	Radio Flyer	Hootfoot 27	Brent Campbell
9	Taj Mahal	J/80	David Schutte

Class 12 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Three Ring Circus	Olson 25	Nate Creitz
2	ConradJ	J/30	Adrien Felon
3	Impulsive	J/30	Ulf Gwildis
4	Thumper	Express 27	Erik Hauge
5	Taku	J/30	Theo Singelis
6	Celebration	J/30	Jim & Staci Bottles

Class 13 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	More Off Da	Moore 24	B & J Braden
2	Morphine	Moore 24	Kandace Glavick

3	Poore Decisions	Moore 24	Scott Walsh
4	More Cowbell!	Moore 24	Kathryn Meyer
5	Morosaurus	Moore 24	Julia Wenegrat

Class 14 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Whistling Swan	Islander 36	Bill Pirrie
2	Mata Hari	Catalina 36 T & P	Walchenbach
3	Priorities	CAL 31	Wayne Foley
4	Ablissian	Cascade 36	Peter & Nancy Ffitch
5	Charlie	Cal 34 III	Paul Lowe
6	Kyrie	Monohull	David Odendahl
7	Wandering Star	Catalina 320	Rick Collins
8	Boadicea	Ericson 32-3	Simon Ffitch

Class 15 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Nimbus	Evelyn 26	Mark Harang
2	Falcon	Cal 9.2	Gerry
3	Arturo	S2 7.9	David James
4	Freeflyte	Freyja 39	Jonathan Cruse
5	Roshambo	J/24	Mark Daniel
6	Gypsy's Child	Harbor 25	Steve Sponar

Class 16 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Moonshine	Yankee 30	Kirk Fraser
2	Lady Too	San Juan 28	Damon Darley
3	Jabez	Ranger 30	Gary Seibert
4	Freedom	J/22	Adam Heinrich
5	Cricket	Irwin Citation 31	Heidi Drivdahl
6	DuFrie	San Juan 28	Tim Divine
7	22 Caliber	J22	Tom Brandt

Class 17 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Fandango	Thunderbird	Ryan Storkman
2	Dorado	Thunderbird	Joe Daubenberger
3	Selchie	Thunderbird	Kwadwo Copeland
4	Cuatro Vientos	Thunderbird	Mike Tunney
5	Poco Mas	Thunderbird	Adam Southerland
6	Gizmo	Harmony 22	John Thompson
7	Bahari Habu	Saturna 33	Tom McDowell
8	Pendragon	C&C 27	Tom Muir
9	The Mighty Runner	Ranger 26	Scott Peterson

Class 18 - Double Handed Flying Sails

1	Tuesday	Columbia 26	B & D Stange
2	Cleo na mar	Alberg 30	John Phillips
3	Bingo	Perry 24	Walter Northfield
4	Blazing Zipper	Ranger 23	Kirk
5	Gypsy Woman	Ericson 30	John McDowell
6	Rock Lobster	San Juan 7.7	Trent Piepho

Class 19 - Double Handed FS Multihulls

1	Alii Kai	Corsair F28	Douglas Barlow
2	Dangerzone	Corsair F27	James Thompson
3	ESCAPE	F-27 Trimaran	Yury Palatnik
4	Cheryl Ann	Corsair F28 CC	Dave

*dns,dnf dsq not shown
courtesy of www.STYC.org*