

Seeing John at the skippers meeting and hearing the name Sparky for his J-24, I joked with FCR that the race would be lit up by Sparky, and so it turned out to be. Sparky is the boat to beat if she is on the race course!!

The skippers meeting was the usual jolly, happy affair. An announcement was made to remind of this Sunday's coming "K" race, so be there! The wind was getting lighter by the minute, defying the forecast 5 knots from the SE. So the course was again set as a double "sausage" (as described by Heather): a windward/leeward course reduced to one lap if the first boat failed to do loop one in an hour.

Then the wind gods got us once again.

Radiant Heat deployed the genoa for the expected light air and concluded the wind before the start as easterly resulting in a port hand tack up the Harbour, and a starboard hand tack down the line. This would be an interesting start.

RH circled around in indecision and eventually thought a Port hand start may be possible as half of the fleet of ten were up at the starboard end of the line. Oasis was also looking at a Port approach but came in faster a little early only to be met with Starboard hand boats and had to duck and weave to find the line closer to the behind a couple, crossing the line closer to the club end.

RH now lost air and what looked like a good gap was closed by Kay D doing a well timed run down the line to reach the pin end just at the start and was started in a second. RH thought to be ahead of the next boat up the line but slowed to a crawl at the pin end with the starboard boats calling for room. That required a tack at the pin flag so that we crept around the mark with a foot to spare as the Starboard hand boats in better air swept passed us led by Sparky.

Already a minute had passed and Kay D had tacked to Port and we were still slow, slow, slow. ALL BOATS were now ahead of us and it was 3 minutes after the start before we felt the wind freshen and finally we were sailing. *(I can attest to this as even Skeena Cloud was ahead, faster, and pointing better than RH at this point. How I savoured those few fleeting minutes – Ed)*

The fleet was tacking back and forth and now the wind moved toward SE and the more usual 45 degree tacks up the harbour were happening. Sparky was leading, hotly pursued by Caliente, Evangeline and Shingebiss. Kay D was right up there, with Imp, First Draft, and Oasis.

RH was now in the groove and sailing at good speed and good angle (*alas, SC's thrill of not being last was short-lived*). It was now a question of how far off the bottom of the list we could get before the winner was declared. We now tacked on Starboard behind Kay D by a few boat lengths crossed to Chain Islands to go back on Port Tack . Here came Kay D with right of way. I thought we could pass across but John said no and so we did the early duck to the stern of Kay D. However they were not as fast as we thought and

so our duck turned into a large swoop around their stern a little closer than intended. Apologies if it was too close?? but soon we were ahead of Kay D.

The wind was now 6-8 knots even 10 knots and freshening. Caliente was first around Ganges Shoals, followed by Sparky, then the rest of the fleet with RH was in the middle.

Skeena Cloud was actually doing quite well at this point. But was losing ground on every tack as she struggled to handle her big genoa 'single-handed squared' in the freshening breeze. (A single-handed sailor with a single useful hand)

Rounding the mark told us that the SE was still in control and it was a deep reach back to the start line which we would pass through, swinging around either boat or pin-end, to begin another lap. Radiant Heat decided on the traditional deep reach while most of the fleet set wider angles with asymmetric spinnakers.

Both Evangeline and Oasis were over to the Chain Islands and we noted our speed was good, and our course better and we were immediately ahead of Evangeline.

Interestingly, Imp 300 yards ahead, was still using head sails: wing on wing. We were closing on all boats including Caliente. Sparky was doing well. Oasis gybed across and we were very close now and on the next crossing she was behind. We were closer to Imp and at the gate she went to the outside with a starboard hand rounding as we took down the Spinnaker and prepared for a port hand rounding at the club end.

Meanwhile, Skeena Cloud got her spinnaker up and took the Chain Islands side, making up some distance on the middle of the fleet. But, with only one hand, decided to take down the spinnaker early to avoid any difficulties at the gate, and instead cross the harbour under genoa. Big mistake. SC didn't drive deep enough into the harbour and the wind was on our stern crossing the harbour. It seemed to take forever, especially watching everyone else skillfully drop their spinnakers and make the turn around their chosen pin, roaring past me going the other way.

Good work by crew mate John, enabled a smooth rounding and now we tacked directly on to the long starboard tack. Imp was down on our left but we seemed to have the advantage now and were very close. The wind now picked up to 12-14 knots with 18-19 apparent noted on the dial. With the second tack back away from Chain islands We were ahead and closing on the second rounding of Ganges Shoals. On the approach to Ganges shoals we were nicely lifted high of the mark and so an early pole and spinnaker set was done. At the last 100 yards we had to ease to a beam reach for the mark and what we had not noted immediately was the wind shift at that point toward the West.

Rounding the mark The spinnaker was quickly raised but we were headed for Sisters and not home. An immediate gybe to Port and we were barely a broad reach. Speed was good. Were were now in 4th place and slowly closing on the boats ahead and widening the gap from those behind.

Now it was a beam reach from the SW and even forward of the beam. We edged to the left side of the channel and moved the Genoa to starboard in case we needed to use head sails to finish. Then the wind abated and we hit a mini hole that slowed us . Boats behind were rejoicing as they closed and boats ahead continued their merry way. But it was only a minute and we were to fresher wind while the boats behind hit the hole. Ha! We cruised over the line under spinnaker and now the wind was lighter again.

Congratulations to Sparky and John for the win. Well sailed.

Skeena Cloud decided to reef the genoa in the freshening breeze on the return trip to Ganges Shoal, only to discover an overwrap on the furler. We were a bit over canvassed, and riding the edge, so were slower than I would have liked. But SC made a good last tack that brought us directly to the mark. Well, there were one or two breathless seconds where I thought an extra turn would be required. Returning, Skeena Cloud couldn't use her spinnaker being unable to furl her genoa, so set a fast downwind course under genoa, and went forward to square away the furler. Finally cleared, and over half-way to the finish line, discretion took the better part of valour (nice way of saying 'chickened out'), and came down the harbour wing on wing, finding out once again that there is no point of sail slower on SC than WoW.

A happy band of campers congregated on the docks for munchies, slurpees and chit chat, not to mention scuttlebutt.

Skeena Cloud was late to the party, spending some time alone, wondering what excuses she could use once the Skipper's hand heals.

It is getting to be a Wednesday night habit that the wind is better than forecast. We have had great sailing weather for the last weeks, thank you, and that is the June series completed, and series A too.

See you Sunday for the 2nd K series race.

Wed Night #4 June 26 - 6/26/2019

Scored by Sailwave 2.25.11

Rank	Boat	SailNo	NHC3	Start	Finish	Elapsed	Corrected	BCR	Points
1	Sparky		0.905	17:00	18:27:30	01:27:30	01:19:11	0.905	Join SISC!
2	First Draft	29921	0.855	17:00	18:38:00	01:38:00	01:23:47	0.808	Join SISC!
3	CALIENTE	CAN45	1.06	17:00	18:19:22	01:19:22	01:24:08	0.998	100
4	Radiant Heat	67901	0.925	17:00	18:32:35	01:32:35	01:25:38	0.855	88
5	Kay D		0.881	17:00	18:40:20	01:40:20	01:28:24	0.789	75
6	Oasis	421	0.933	17:00	18:36:20	01:36:20	01:29:53	0.822	63
7	IMP	2107	0.927	17:00	18:38:30	01:38:30	01:31:19	0.804	50
8	Shingebiss	49077	1.044	17:00	18:27:37	01:27:37	01:31:28	0.904	38
9	Evangeline		0.941	17:00	18:40:00	01:40:00	01:34:06	0.792	25
10	Skeena Cloud	121	0.832	17:00	18:56:40	01:56:40	01:37:04	0.679	13

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