

## **SISC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Regatta**

### **By Tony Brogan**

Planning for this event began at the beginning of the year. SISC's Race Committee and Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club (SNSYC) organized two regattas: one in Sidney in the spring and the second on Salt Spring this fall.

The second event morphed into the 50th anniversary regatta celebration of the founding of SSIS club.

Thus, a fleet of 18 boats engaged in a day of racing with two courses set in the vicinity of 2nd sisters Island and Captains Passage.

Following in the wake of the amazing hospitality SNSYC showed us SISC sailors in the spring, we organized a Saturday night supper at the club house to welcome the visitors, followed by a Sunday continental breakfast. Short race briefings were provided by Race Organizer, Rich Ballantyne, at both events. We also displayed the prizes to be given out just before SISC'S annual family BBQ Sunday afternoon.

On the race course, the promised 10 knot SE wind and accompanying drizzle was on full display.

The first race was set as a long course from the start near the Second Sister light, out to U 60 (P) , Welbury spar (P) and finish. The countdown by Race committee Rich Ballantyne came over channel 72 and the start signal followed by "All clear" ,



It was a crowded start at the committee boat end and many were promptly over the line within seconds of the horn. Radiant Heat found herself blanketed by the wind shadow of boats just ahead and to windward. Being a little slower and falling behind, we shortly were able to tack away to the right, on port tack comfortably clearing the oncoming imposing Second Wind.



Moving out to the right onto the Saltspring shore we noted the majority of the fleet still on Starboard heading toward Welbury Bay. Slowly, one by one, then as a group, all turned back toward the Saltspring shore. We were well placed up with the leaders. It was now a tacking duel up the shore past Batt Rock to limit the effect of the flood current and then deciding the correct time to head for the U 60 mark on the SW Prevost Island shore on the other side of the channel.

Here the fast boats Ogoopogo, My Tai, Shingebiss, Caliente and Blue shift were ahead but with Radiant heat still in touch . Heading closer to U 60 the speed merchants, My Tai and Ogoopogo, increased their lead and rounding the mark they set asymmetric spinnakers on sprits and took off like scalded cats towards Welbury.

However, the wind generally got lighter and the committee called a shortened course at Welbury to ensure there was time for a second race.

We all waited for the slower boats to finish, drifted down to the start line, had some lunch, and waited for the course to be announced for race #2.

By this time the wind picked up a little, the rain ceased, and the sun peeked out. A grand afternoon for the second race.

Race number 2 was a shorter course: Start at Second Sister, Batt Rock (P), Horda shoals (P), back to Batt Rock (S) and finish.

The start again was counted down as a crowd gathered at the committee end had several boats calling for room. While technically wrong the 'bargers' prevailed, and in the interests of harmony on a friendly inter club day, no protests were called.



Now the flood current was lesser but still evident and again the fleet tacked up the shore. However some boats, including Shingebiss and Radiant Heat took the longer tacks out on Starboard, seeming to suffer no harm, arriving at the mark just behind the usual leaders Ogopogo and My Tai.

It was a close hauled/close reach to Horda and once around, the same on the return to Batt Rock. Here the early boats were meeting the later boats and as the latter had starboard set sails they had the right of way and so we on port tack threaded our way through the approaching boats before rounding the mark and setting spinnakers to the finish line.

The breeze held, the sun shone, all boats kept respective positions and through the finish line we went under full sails to return to the docks for the awards.

Now the handicap ratings come into play and the adjusted times adjusted the eventual prize winners to some of the slower boats, notably Prairie Sun and Matilda.

Final positions were calculate as the some of positions of race 1 and race 2.

The overall positions were

1. Ogopogo
2. My Tai
3. Prairie Sun
4. Matilda
5. Radiant heat.

In addition the fleet divided into teams of three boats and the winning team was for Saltspring.

Ogopogo

Radiant Heat

Shingebiss

This was an enjoyable event and may be repeated again as an inter club regatta on an annual/semi annual basis.

Many thanks must go to Rich Ballantyne and Tony Meek for planning the race, Rich Ballantyne for volunteering to be Race Officer (he did a stellar job), Don Dashwood for bringing out Snapdragon on a rainy morning to act as Committee boat, Sam Keating for assisting Don, Mia Curley for helping me during the dinner and breakfast, Eric van Soeren for creating the second prize trophy, Bob Jones for setting up the tables and chairs, and Casey de Jong for taking pictures of the boats on the course. And, of course, thanks must go to Mike Dawson for helping organize the bar and BBQ.

And it would not have been such a success without Ron Turner and John Windas, from SNSYC, organizing their fleet.



