

Round Prevost Race and Challenge

April 5, 2020

By Greg Taylor

Our annual Round Prevost Race was one of the best days racing many of us have had in some time. There was relatively steady northerly breeze of 7-10 knots for most of the day. It was sunny enough to be able to show off (if we could go anywhere) the first blush of Salt Spring sun for 2020.

But in the lead up to the start, we thought it might be a bit more challenging than the wind had been forecasted it would be. And that some Round Prevost Challenge records would fall. Powerful gusts of 15-18 knots from the NW rolled across the harbour. Many of us who had rigged our spinnakers doubted whether we would be flying them.

I could see that Paul, April, and Rhys aboard Ogotogo were gearing themselves to challenge Martin Herbert's record on Kay D of 1:39:04, set on October 8, 2013. (This broke the previous record of 1:45:00 (corrected time), which was set by Dick Pattinson in Gwaihir in 1988, a record that had stood for 25 years). Their intensity was palpable and inspiring.

Including Ogotogo, there were 12 boats setting up for the start. Everyone had adhered to the new protocols and were sailing either single-handed, or with people they live with. With twelve boats jockeying for the start, I was surprised to find myself sailing outside of Radiant Heat, parallel to the line, on a port tack, with 20 seconds to go. As the clock ticked down I waited for Tony to make his move and flip onto a starboard tack, cross the line, and start the race, all the while thinking, "I must be gaining some confidence or more likely, over-confidence".

I snapped Skeena Cloud onto a starboard tack following Tony across the line. I soon had Ogotogo crossing me on port as they readied their spinnaker. I neatly ducked under them and watched the Ogotogo's crew smartly come onto a starboard tack. As I had a head of steam up, and they were coming out of a tack, I actually sailed side by side with them for ten seconds. But just as quickly they swept by me, hoisted their spinnaker, and were gone.

I could almost imagine Paul, sitting in the stern, pointing his finger into the future, and in a calm but determined voice, ordering his crew to, "Engage". And the starship Ogotogo disappeared down the harbour and towards the outer reaches of our sailing adventure in a doppler burst of red.

But as soon as the race started, the breeze decreased by a third to maybe 8 knots, even dropping down to 5 or 6 for a time. Meanwhile, it began to shift into the N where it would tend to stay for much of the rest of the race.

Everyone opted to take Prevost to port. Spinnakers were now the preferred weapon. Kay D was the first to hoist hers and quickly took the lead, but was soon passed by Ogotogo. But Kay D, as far as I could see from my position near the rear of the fleet, stayed near the lead up to, and around, Point Liddell.

Sorcery X struggled with setting her spinnaker and getting it organized during the wind shift, but she was quickly in second place, a position she would hold for the balance of the race. Skeena Cloud, Evangeline, and Second Wind also set their spinnakers for the long run down to the bottom of Prevost. It was exhilarating. I am sure Skeena Cloud was in shock. She had no idea 7.3 knots was in her repertoire.

With her spinnaker up, Skeena Cloud slowly passed Battle Axe, then Deryn Mor, and finally Rampart (one of the prettiest boats I have seen), all the while staying ahead of Second Wind. We were slowly catching up to Evangeline, Radiant Heat, and Imp. I could see Oasis playing the tides near the Prevost shore as we caught up and passed her. I could get use to this! But I need not have worried.

I could see Evangeline struggling to douse her kite down at the bottom of Prevost. The breeze had moderated a bit near U60 but picked up again as it came across the bottom of Prevost. I thought here we go, this is where I give it all up. But no, I got the spinnaker down relatively well. My expectations aren't high, so relatively well is a low bar.

We all turned to race upwind up the NE shore of Prevost. Here is where it all fell apart for me. I still sail upwind like a pregnant duck. But before describing my fall from grace, here is a word from Kay D, who I discovered going the wrong way at Portlock Point. I asked him later what had happened...

Hi Greg,

Never let minor setbacks get in the way of a lovely sail. Broke the jib Halyard just off the half way mark of the race while in third place boat for boat. Craig hailed me "are you alright" which was pretty cute as I had the helm lashed and was lying on the foredeck tying the spinnaker halyard to the stem as a back up forestay. It only occurred to me later that he could have been asking after my mental health as I had my jib down, was sailing the wrong way and was perhaps taking a nap on the foredeck. I was surprised at how well she sailed under jury rig, finishing 6th boat overall (just behind Imp) at 1.36. 55. DNF of course as I sailed the full distance but all on one side of Prevost, failing to round it. Got into dock at the perfect time to sidle up to the overhead walkway, run up the ramp and retrieve the wire halyard before it disappeared into the mast. A quick trip to Mouatts tomorrow and all will be well on the Kay D. Another great day on the water.

After my fantastic downwind run, I was passed first by Rampart and Second Wind. The rest of the fleet, who were probably only 1.5 to 2 miles ahead of me upon me rounding Portlock Pt., began to lengthen the distance between us and disappear one by one around Peile Point, and looking behind me, Deryn Mor and Battle Axe were rapidly catching up.

We hit a few soft spots and shifts in the breeze here and there, and there were a couple of panicky moments when I thought it might shut down altogether, but I could see the boats up ahead were well heeled. And everything is relative, this was a day when 4.5 knots felt like sitting still.

I managed to just stay ahead of Deryn Mor and Battle Axe who, as usual, sailed well and steady. Sailing ahead of them reminded me of the scene from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, where Sundance turns to Butch, and plaintively asks, "who *are* those guys", as the professional and experienced posse relentlessly chases them down.

Unlike Sundance and Butch, I escaped, but it was a near thing. Entering Captain's Pass I took a gamble and hoisted my spinnaker and flew it on a close reach to Second Sister. Ripping along at 5 to 6.5 knots, I rapidly outdistanced my two rivals. I needed to as I gave it all back to them by having too much fun, leaving the spinnaker up to long, and discovering furling the spinnaker on a close reach in 8 -10 knots of breeze was another not so wise choice. But by partially unfurling the genoa I was able to both sail and get the darn spinnaker furled without hitting the far beach or any mooring buoys or crab traps.

Finally getting it sorted, I looked over my right shoulder and there were my two nemesis for the day, Deryn Mor and Battle Axe, sedately and competently rounding Second Sister.

I had a drag race with Deryn Mor down the harbour and across the line, crossing the line 10 seconds ahead of him. But I cheated. I watched him like a hawk and mimicked his every move. I learned a lot.

It was a fantastic day on the water with Ogoopogo taking line honours and the fastest time this year for the Round Prevost Challenge, but he did not unseat Kay D.

I will provide first the results for yesterday's race and then the times for the Round Prevost Challenge times for Sunday, and finally the Round Prevost Challenge times to date. The times are different because the Round Prevost Challenge is, by tradition, scored by PHRF and ToD. Thanks again to Paul for scoring and handicapping our races. Note your rating for your next race in the second from last column to the right.

Well done everyone. The next race, in two weeks, is Long Harbour.

Round Prevost

Rating	Rating	Boat	Skipper	Time	Time	Place	Next Race	Points
117	304	SECOND WIND	van Soeren	13:50:55	02:38:29	1	289	100
210	375	BATTLE AXE	Raddysh	14:12:02	02:41:15	2	363	92
114	50	OGOPOGO	Faget	12:54:22	02:44:38	3	41	83
120	179	OASIS	Jones	13:27:44	02:45:16	4	173	75
186	337	SKEENA CLOUD	Taylor	14:10:00	02:46:52	5	334	67
102	208	EVANGELINE	Sutton	13:41:55	02:51:21	6	208	58
87	65	SORCERY X	Stakov	13:04:57	02:52:10	7	68	50
167	138	IMP	Leitch	13:33:22	03:01:08	8	144	42
138	135	RADIANT HEAT	Brogan	13:32:59	03:01:35	9	144	33
228	250	DERYN MOR	Vine	14:10:20	03:06:00	10	262	25
	150	RAMPART	DeRoos	13:41:56	03:06:12	11	165	17
202	197	KAY D	Herbert	dnf		12	197	8

Prevost Challenge (phrf TOD @ 13.1 m)

Ogoopogo (114)	1:59:29
Sorcery X (87)	2:15:57
Imp (188)	2:22:19
Oasis (138)	2:27:36
Radiant Heat (156)	2:28:55
Deryn Mor (246)	2:46:37
Evangeline (102)	2:49:39
Battle Axe (228)	2:52:15
Second Wind (117)	2:55:22
Skeena Cloud (186)	2:59:23

Round Prevost Challenge

Boat	Date	Corrected Time
Battle Axe	05-Apr	2:52:15
Caliente		
Deryn Mor	05-Apr	2:46:37
Effervescence I		
Evangeline	05-Apr	2:49:39
Firefly		
Imp	05-Apr	2:22:19
Kay D	29-Mar	2:19:32
Minke	29-Mar	2:42:12
Oasis	05-Apr	2:27:36
Ogoopogo	05-Apr	1:59:29
Phoenix		
Radiant Heat	29-Mar	2:15:31
Radiant Heat	05-Apr	2:28:55
Second Wind	05-Apr	2:55:22
Shingebiss		
Skeena Cloud	05-Apr	2:59:23
Sorcery X	05-Apr	2:15:57
Soul Thyme		
Sylph	22-Mar	2:17:28

