

## **First September Wednesday Night Race: September 2, 2020**

### **Report by Tony Brogan**

The wind for the our first September Wednesday Night Race night was forecast to be very light: 2 knots or so. However at midday the forecast changed to a SE wind at 4 knots with gusts to 10, easing after 6 pm to 2 knots.

Yours truly having been nominated pro temp as the Race committee fretted over a potential course that would fulfill the mandate of boats not being stranded for lack of wind in the latter stages of the race while still fulfilling the desire for a 2 hour sail.

Fortunately RH had crew in the form of the capable John Gauld. During a chat as we prepped the boat, we determined that the wind allowed for an adventurous course. But what could we add for a little change?

It was decided on the following wrinkle: Start at the Club - 5 knot buoy rounding (P), Pin end of the start line (P), Welbury Spar (P) and finish. Short course time to be taken at 2nd sisters light.

I realize now that we neglected to set a time limit, but fortunately none was needed.

The radio roll call produced only 3 boats, Radiant Heat, Evangeline, and Caliente, but enough for a race!

The wind on the water gave us 4-7 knots and with our 155 Genoa we moved smartly enough but our initial trial tacks gave us slow boat speed. Minutes later reaching down the line we enjoyed 6 knots + boat speed.

With 5 minutes to go we angled to the starboard end but well forward of the line and with less than 3 minutes turned toward Squalor bay to position ourselves for our run to the line. Caliente was closer to the docks doing circles winding down the clock and Evangeline was also positioning herself at the starboard end.

We were slightly slow to the pin, allowing Caliete to squeeze in ahead, tack in front of us, putting us in dirty air. Evangeline was aft.

Shortly we tacked to the right for clear air and headed for Walter Spit. Quickly Caliente covered and tacked too. Evangeline followed closely. Tacking back to the left we were just allowing Caliente to pass ahead.

Our challenge was now how to figure out the approach to the 5 knot mark. We right turned again, approaching the mark with 10 boat lengths to spare. Caliente was still headed to the shore but now she too tacked for the mark on starboard.

As we converged we Found ourselves on a collision course with 'Big Red'. We decided to tack in front of Caliente and try for the mark. We were not quite far enough and Caliente passed us to Windward and in her bad air we slowed still further.

Caliente squeezed around the mark with 6" to spare whereas we were forced to tack away and then quickly tack again to round the mark. As we rounded we found Evangeline to be close on our heels.

It was now back to the pin end, down wind. Caliente had gone left and under white sails seemed slow. We went right, John asked, "Should we put up the spinnaker?".

It was agreed and so John went to work. In short order, the practiced John had the spinnaker flying. The skipper decided to stay right of the mark on the port hand tack, do an early take down, and approach the mark on a reach with the genoa.

Barely was the spinnaker up than it was dropped. (*Pretty impressive sail handling boys! - FCR*) The genoa was duly set with the boat trimmed to a a beam reach across to the mark, and then neatly around on to a close hauled course, ahead of both the other boats.

There was barely enough time to get the pole stowed before we tacked back to Starboard and headed out of the harbour and onto Welbury spar.

There were lighter patches of wind and we stayed to the left. Caliente was caught in lighter air and dropped back. Evangeline was closely tracking us, sailing well, exhibiting both good speed and pointing ability.

Finally, we took a long tack to the right, close to Ganges shoals and toward the Salt Spring shore until we judged ourselves well clear of Second Sisters Island.

We were now slowly separating from Evangeline as we flipped over to the long starboard tack, getting a nice lift. We passed 2nd Sisters, and as it turned out, had a perfect line to Welbury spar. We were now settling down, enjoying an evening sail in sunshine with good breeze and warm airs. Perfect!

Evangeline was now tracking us 300 yards back with Caliente further back yet.

Rounding the spar we reached back under Genoa and then as the wind went aft, John hoisted the spinnaker again.

Looking behind us, Evangeline was making good progress under white sails, and as we approached the harbour, she launched her asymmetric.

Down the harbour the wind lightened as we proceeded dead down wind. We were able to extend our lead a little.

We finished, put the boat to bed, and headed for the dock for a chat with Ben and crew Anthony Wilkinson, who is about to be a new member. *(Anthony will be a welcome addition to our Club. He is an excellent, experienced sailor with a warm, friendly bearing - FCR)*

We enjoyed a few laughs, marvelled at our good fortune, lamenting others were not out to share the beautiful sail we all enjoyed.

Hopefully more will turn out next week!

*(I am sure they will be. I know some - including your FCR - are away for some late summer holidays. Some are returning for next Wednesday. I am looking forward to enjoy some late summer evening sails when I return to racing on the 16th for the 3rd of 5 September Wednesday Night Races. Good work Tony - FCR)*

Club			Finish	Corrected		Rating for	club
Rating	Boat	Skipper	Time	Time	Place	Next Race	points
132	RADIANT HEAT	Brogan	17:53:16	01:37:58	1	129	100
172	EVANGELINE	Sutton	18:02:29	01:40:58	2	172	67
88	CALIENTE	Andersen	18:07:35	02:00:22	3	91	33

*If I only had a boat.....*

