

Jack Langdon Race

January 10, 2021

Report by Tony Brogan, pictures by April Faget, Greg Slakov, and Greg Taylor

January 10 Sunday Jack Langdon A SISC Start - Batt RK (P) - Ben Mohr (P) - Batt Rk (S) - Finish 13.0

Right on schedule at 9:45, the Dulcet tones of the FCR wafted over the airways from Ch 72. " Welcome to the 2021 Racing Year and a Happy New Year to all."

The Roll call revealed 9 boats heading for the line.

The weather forecast was correct. SE winds from 7-11 knots . Maybe some drizzle and maybe not.

Radiant Heat was soon on the water setting the main, 155 genoa and the 110 jib. We tacked up the harbour with 25 minutes to go and tried both head sails, then decided to be rid of the 155 and deploy the smaller 135 as the apparent wind was at times well up to 12-13 knots.

Boats were as usual testing what might be their preferred end to start. Pogo cruised up and down the line. Radiant Heat did a trial run and decided on the standard starboard end start. We wheeled around and headed back toward the club end with 5 minutes or less to go. The wind was steady verging a little to the south.

Sorcery X crossed our bow headed the same direction. Oasis was further in and coming about to the line. We made it to the edge of the house boats and turned for the line with 2 and a half minutes to go. Oasis was early and coming in fast from the starboard side. Sorcery X was ahead and a little to our Port. Second Wind was off abeam to our Port. Others, I can't say.

Radiant Heat luffed a little into the wind but hit the line just 3 seconds late at good speed and with clear air, nobody to weather.

(Skeena Cloud strategy was to be upwind (to starboard) of everyone for once, to enjoy clean air, unencumbered by all the larger boats. It worked well in terms of position, but I was 20 seconds late. Skeena Cloud had clean air from starboard, but looking forward, all I could see was the fat a%^s of the big boats, and their leftover disturbed, and unwelcome, wind)

As we made it toward the Chain Island shore we were in mid fleet. Sorcery X and Pogo led the pack and turning to Port tack passed comfortably ahead. Soul Thyme was close, Oasis passed ahead. Evangeline, Second Wind, Battle Axe and Skeena Cloud were further back.



As we tacked out of the harbour, boats were close together, crossing back and forth in the brisk southeast breeze. Twice we had to make a quick tack to avoid dirty air. Sorcery X and Pogo made strategic tacks and extended their lead. We seemed to be tit for tat with Oasis, first a little ahead, then a little behind.



Soon thereafter appeared Second Wind, kicking up her heels, embracing the steady breeze, and took our bow by a half boat length as she crossed on Port tack. There was a broad smile on Eric's face as he called out, "I did not expect this"!!

We headed out to Captain's Passage with some going left, and some right. We passed by Second Sister within a brisk 25 minutes. There was a little more wind and we tacked on the headers and rode the lifts. We gained a little but Oasis remained ahead, as did Soul Thyme, heading out to the left. Several boats followed. We took a centre right position directly to Batt Rock and noted Pogo a couple of hundred in front of us with Sorcery X further ahead yet.

We tacked twice more, each time the angle to the mark reached 50 degrees and we found we had gained on the boats doing the longer tacks out to the left. After one more port hand tack to the mark to get close and flip over to starboard tack to round the mark. Oasis was bearing down on us fast, on port tack, towards the mark.

Radiant Heat was a little ahead of Oasis, holding the right of way. There were barely 3 boat lengths between the two of us as before we crossed ahead and rounded, before bearing off and reaching across the channel. Oasis slowed by being forced to do the extra tack and was soon hard on our tail, now 5 lengths back.



Just a little further back were Soul Thyme, Evangeline and Second Wind bunched together and a little further back again were the lurking presence of the high

handicap boats: Skeena Cloud and Battle Axe. It was an oscillating beam reach through Captains Passage to Trincomali and twice we were tempted to fly the spinnaker but each time the wind went forward and we repacked the spinnaker bag.

(Battle Axe and Skeena Cloud crossed paths three times before exiting the harbour, where we diverged: Battle Axe heading left, Skeena Cloud right. Tacking back towards left upon reaching the Salt Spring shore, the breeze shifted south, and Skeena Cloud received a nice lift out towards Batt Rock. Battle Axe was disadvantaged as she tacked back towards the Salt Spring shore. Battle Axe flies under such a wind, but she required an additional longer tack than Skeena Cloud, putting her well behind at the mark. Skeena Cloud enjoyed the reach across, and into the Pass. We saw the larger boats stalled in the pass so she steered wide, keeping outside the wind shadow on the windward side of the pass, making up some distance on them.

But oh my, when the larger boats entered Trincomali, the wind picked up, and they began to fly. They had soon rounded the mark and flew by us heading back to Batt Rock. I am unsure how fast they were going, but some must have been going 7+ knots. Probably too fast to see my thumb my nose at them.

Rounding Ben Mohr we passed Battle Axe entering Trincomali. I was well ahead at this point, but knew Battle Axe would eat up some of the advantage reaching back and across Trincomali. Sailing through Captain's Pass I made my mistake. I chose to stay on the leeward side of the pass in the most wind. Coming out of the Pass I met the wind that was again trending more south than southeast – you would have thought I would have , but I proved Janice's contention that my memory is not so much short, as nonexistent.

I could not pinch enough to make the mark in any event, so decided to go as fast as I could upwind, and deal with the necessary tack as I got close. Looking back, I saw Battle Axe in the far distance, but every time I checked, Battle Axe was growing in size. Moreover, he took a smarter line out of the Pass and was on track to make Batt Rock in one tack.

Skeena Cloud spent 8-10 minutes tacking south to enable her to tack back to Batt Rock, where exasperated, she pored the coals on, passing close to a skiff trolling next to the mark, and the mark itself. I was thinking they are about to hook on something much bigger, and less appetizing, than they had hoped for.

Looking back, Battle Axe was closer still. Skeena Cloud set her asymmetric. Looking back, I was expecting to see Battle Axe launch her big green machine. Instead, what must be something Santa Claus dropped off, was a beautiful blue spinnaker.

It was a terrific run from Batt Rock to the finish line without having to gybe, watching the new blue spinnaker grow several sizes.



Back to Radiant Heat. Slowly but surely Oasis clawed back the lead and passed us with an exultant cry of triumph before reaching Piele Point. Soul Thyme had her spinnaker up and gaining back a little distance. Ahead Pogo extended her lead on the pack staying with Sorcery X and also flying the chute. And so we all reached over to Ben Mohr Rock mark, waving to each other as we passed on the return leg. Jim was in good form on Battle Axe, and Greg was smiling away on Skeena Cloud.

It was back to Batt Rock and now the SSE steady breeze made it a close hauled long tack. Sorcery X made it in one tack. Pogo was off a little to leeward and had to tack cross and a second tack to round. Oasis was now ahead of RH by a good 150 yards but sliding to leeward and tacked over to cross us just 75 yards ahead. RH managed to make the rounding without a tack. We watched as Sorcery X had fun prepping for a spinnaker set. Greg scampering back and forth on the deck.

Pogo had the chute up with (April's) usual efficiency. Oasis gybed to the right around the mark and setting the asymmetric seemed to slow. Radiant Heat bore off to the left and set the spinnaker on a broad reach each with good speed and back into third place. Just minutes behind us the fleet rounded and launched spinnakers.

The wind held and Radiant Heat stayed on the port gybe all the way to the finish. Now and then with a little gust and then a little lull. Now a deep reach and the pole set changed as the wind was less broad. Oasis was now 100 yard back and further right and as we passed Second Sisters, was gaining sightly. We were making constant adjustments to the sails according to wind direction and strength.

Half way down the harbour we thought Oasis had the right wind to overtake when she suddenly bore off across the channel as if she had been headed. We gained 100 yards. *(And so she may have been, because the breeze turned SW for us alongside the Club)*

And so the fleet swept down the harbour. The breeze held. The rain stayed away.

A glorious finish to a stimulating day.

Simply put it was great to be out.

Club			Finish	Corrected		Rating for	club
Rating	Boat	Skipper	Time	Time	Place	Next Race	points
171	POCO	Faget	13:06:17	02:27:01	1	159	100
307	SKEENA CLOUD	Taylor	13:42:11	02:31:03	2	298	89
107	SORCERY X	Slakov	12:58:19	02:33:45	3	101	78
159	RADIANT HEAT	Brogan	13:13:17	02:36:19	4	156	67
158	OASIS	Jones	13:14:53	02:38:04	5	158	56
211	SECOND WIND	van Soeren	13:28:02	02:38:18	6	214	44
303	BATTLE AXE	Raddysh	13:58:17	02:44:30	7	309	33
178	EVANGELINE	Sutton	13:27:09	02:44:58	8	187	22
132	SOUL THYME	Simpson	13:23:20	02:52:48	9	144	11

