

Gulf of Maine Racing News - 10/23/2006

Congratulations to the skipper and crew of Nipantuck, overall Gulf of Maine Champion and winner of the Dirigo Bowl. This is a repeat for Mark Werner, Peter Cole, and their crew. Nipantuck ended this season with 807.2 Rinderle B points for their best nine race days - edging out Ed Rogers' Revolution II, which had 805.8 points in a great season winning the highly competitive Racing Class A.

Upon presenting the Dirigo Bowl at last Saturday's banquet, GMORA Vice President Randy Rice noted the extraordinary efforts Werner and his crew take to get Nipantuck to the course and to stay ahead of her competitors.

"They commute to Maine from Ohio by jet, then deliver the boat several hours from Southport to Casco Bay for a lot of the races," he said. "Nipantuck is always well prepared, and Mark has told me that shifting a crew member just a few inches can give her extra speed. It's this kind of effort that keeps her ahead of us and other competitors in Cruising Class."

A complete list of award winners comes later.

Points East names Yachtsman of the Year

Also Saturday evening, Points East magazine named Geoff Emanuel as its Yachtsman of the Year. Geoff has been racing on the Gulf of Maine for years, either skippering his own boat or crewing for others. He is GMORA's past president and skipper of Commotion, one of Racing Class C's top competitors. He's also an all-around great guy.

In announcing the award, Points East Editor Sandy Marsters said Emanuel is known for his infectious enthusiasm for boating and willingness to share his sailing knowledge with fellow competitors.

"He encourages everyone, regardless of their experience or type of boat, to get out on the starting line," he said. "Geoff goes out of his way to make all competitors - from newbies to veterans - feel welcome from the moment they check in right through the end of the post-race party."

Congratulations to Geoff for this well-deserved award.

President's Award

GMORA President Peter Garcia presented the President's Award to Press Officer Gail Rice in recognition of her efforts to expand communications to GMORA membership and the news media. Racing results have been published in local papers and a weekly electronic newsletter has kept membership up-to-date on GMORA happenings. Plans are for communications to expand further to cruisers and other potential competitors in hopes of getting more boats onto the course.

This is why people were asked to put e-mail addresses on their meal tickets at the banquet - we're trying to expand the e-mail list. If you know of anyone who might be interested in getting news on Gulf of Maine racing, please have them send along their e-mail address and we can add them to the list. And if you have any ideas on how to reach more non-racers, hit "reply" and send them along. I'm all ears!

Competitive Awards

Here's a list of award winning boats and skippers for various GMORA classes.

Racing Class A:

Revolution II, Ed Rogers: first overall, first western, second central

Bandito, Dick Hale: first central

Far Out, Hal Kroeger: first eastern

Kaos, Scott Smithwick: second overall, third central

Sheerness, Maine Maritime Academy: third overall, third eastern

Scaramouche, Merle Hallett: third western

Weather Guage, Stockton Smith, second eastern

Racing Class B:

The Wagon, Richard Hallet of Falmouth: first western, first central
Tern, Bob Johnstone of Boston, Massachusetts: first eastern
Sold, Jon Knowles, second central
Eventyr, Gordon Haaland, second eastern
Xanthippe, Daniel Dennett, third eastern

Racing Class C:

Roach Coach, Richard Stevenson: first overall, first central, third western
Commotion, Geoffrey Emanuel: first western, second overall, second central
Snowbird, Jon Randall: third overall, second western, third central

Racing Class D:

Five, Tom Hall of Scarborough: first overall, first western, first central
Rainier, Rob Hawley: second central

J/105 Class:

Ghost, Ken Colburn of Dover, Massachusetts: first overall, first central
Keemah, Don Logan of Falmouth: first western, second overall, third central
Sidewinder, Tom Rolfes of Wyoming, Ohio: first eastern
Uproar, Harrington, second central

Cruising Class:

Nipantuck, Mark Werner of Southport and Cincinnati, Ohio: First overall, first western, first central, Dirigo Bowl
Ajax, Dave Merrill: second overall, second western, second central
Artemis, Ron Cole: third overall, third western
Rita P, Randy Rice: third central

Fun and merit awards:

Most improved boat: Roach Coach
Hospitality award: Centerboard Yacht Club
Jim Lowery Award for Sportsmanship: Ron Cole
Seamanship Award: Butch Minson
Principal Race Officer Award: Bud Hawley and Duncan Wood
Best Run Regatta: Southport Yacht Club
Family Award: Too Elusive
Most valuable crew: Revolution II
Best Named Boat: Pain Killer
Best Dressed Boat: Belafonte

Next GMORA Board of Directors meeting:

While the racing season is over, the work to make racing better and attract more participants never stops. The next GMORA Board of Directors meeting is set for Wednesday, Nov. 8 at Portland Yacht Club. There will be a lot to talk about in coming months - race schedules, scoring, class breaks, and more - so feel free to contact a board member with your thoughts.

Gulf of Maine Racing News is sent weekly (more or less) during racing season to Gulf of Maine sailors. It might be sent during the off-season, too, though probably less often. Suggestions are welcome. Please send ideas/suggestions/comments and any additions/deletions/revisions to the mailing list to

maineyachtracing@verizon.net .

The local lowdown on sailboat racing in the Gulf of Maine