

NOOD Regatta draws record fleet

Sailors took to the rough waters of the Chesapeake Bay to compete in the Helly Hansen National Offshore One Design Regatta in Annapolis Saturday. (Paul W. Gillespie)

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After waiting out foul weather that canceled opening day racing on Friday for the Helly Hansen National Offshore One Design Regatta, a record fleet of some 200 boats set out to do battle on multiple race courses off Annapolis on Saturday, finding challenging conditions in gusty westerly breeze, big waves, and intermittent rain. For many sailors, facing off in big fleets in sustained breeze from the mid-teens into the low 20-knot range, with gusts pushing well over 25, it was a grueling way to blow off winter rust and start the 2017 racing season.

"It was a really tough day for the sailors," said Division 2 PRO Sharon Hadsell, "but they did really well. It was really rough out there."

Among the sizeable contingent of Chesapeake Bay sailors are visiting teams from across the country and beyond, including a group of sailors from all parts competing in the venerable Ensign class, for which this

regatta is serving as the ECA Region 1 Championship and an important waypoint en route to the Nationals in Michigan in August. With seven entries, the Ensigns represent one of the event's smaller classes but may have produced some of the more exciting moments of the day when a weather mark incident resulted in one of the boats taking on water at an alarming rate. Per protocol, the Coast Guard was called in and towed the semi-swamped boat back to the dock while the crew, unharmed, was transported ashore by a Race Committee boat.

The NOOD Regatta series has been a steady presence in Annapolis for nearly 20 years, but this is the first time the classic Ensigns have been part of it. *Chowder* skipper Bill Murphey of Island Heights, New Jersey said he's pushing the class to become more active and visible at a national level.

"We're trying to get the Ensign out in front of people," said Murphey, who is leading the class. "It's a great, stable boat. It's inexpensive and family friendly. We're trying to show the class to the rest of the sailing community, and Annapolis is the place to go."

Though wind speeds were higher than most of the Ensign crews are used to, the fleet of veteran sailors stepped up to the challenge to log three tight races. According to Murphey, the key to his team's success was paying close attention to the puffs and playing the right angles.

Following a brief morning postponement ashore to allow conditions to settle down, racing began early Saturday afternoon. Conditions were such that the Viper class did not venture out initially, as the earlier wind ranges exceeded their maximums. They were able to join their Division 2 fellows a bit later, however, and both they and the 40-boat J/70 class were able to complete three races, as did the Alberg 30, Cal 25, and Ensign classes in Division 1; the J/24, J/30, J/80 and Etchells classes in Division 3; and the J/35, J/105, J/111, and Farr 30 classes in Division 4. Meantime, two small PHRF classes raced time-on-time on a 17.6-mile government mark course in the North Sails Rally Race.

The J/22s in Division 1 and C&C30s in Division 4 completed four races yesterday. With 29 boats registered, the J/22 class is one of the event's larger fleets. Last year's overall champion, professional sailor Terry Flynn, a former Annapolitan now heading the Quantum Sails Gulf Coast loft in Seabrook, Texas, is in town to defend his title and was leading the J/22 fleet with his team on *Tejas*. With finishes of 4-3-1-3, his 11-point total for the day was not a runaway and he will have to hold off several tough competitors to win his class. The overall regatta winner, however, is chosen based on the strongest finish in the most competitive class, so Flynn appears to be in the running to repeat.

Leading 43-boat J/70 class, the regatta's largest, after three races was Californian Bruce Golison and his team on *Midlife Crisis*. This class also features a Corinthian division, in which professional sailors are prohibited; Annapolitans Jenn and Ray Wulff and their *Joint Custody* team were at the top of that leaderboard on Saturday.

With 220 boats registered, the Helly Hansen Regatta Annapolis is arguably the biggest keelboat regatta in the country. Sailors from the length of the Eastern Seaboard and as far away as Michigan, Canada, Texas and California are on hand. Presented by Sailing World, the regatta is hosted by Annapolis Yacht Club with on-water assistance from Eastport Yacht Club and Severn Sailing Association.

Racing is scheduled to conclude on Sunday. Final awards in all classes will be presented this afternoon at the culmination of the event. More information and full results can be found at <http://www.sailingworld.com/nood-regattas/annapolis>.

Helly Hansen NOOD Regatta

Division 1

J/22 (27 boats):

1. Tejas, Terry Flynn, League City, TX, 4-3-1-3 = 11
2. Bayhead, Matt/Lori Schubert, Annapolis, 3-2-9-2 = 16
3. Uncle Fluffy, Zeke Horowitz, Annapolis, 1-12-6-1 = 20
4. USA 789, Jake Doyle, Annapolis, 2-4-10-4 = 20
5. Mo' Money, Victor Snyder/Kevin Doyle, Niagara Falls, NY, 6-6-3-6 = 21

Alberg 30 (7 boats):

1. Argo, TC Williams, Arnold, 2-3-2 = 7
2. Latika, William Woodford, Havre de Grace, 3-4-1 = 8
3. Laughing Gull, Jonathan Adams, Severna Park, 4-2-3 = 9

Cal 25 (4 boats):

1. White Cap, Timothy Bloomfield, Sherwood Forest, 1-1-2 = 4
2. Chicken Little, Charlie Husar, Annapolis, 2-2-1 = 5

Ensign (6 boats):

1. Chowder, William Murphey, Island Heights, NJ, 1-1-1 = 3

2. Never Enz, Peter Heffernan, Huntington, NY, 3-3-2 = 8

3. Lorelei, Bud Brown, Glenelg, 2-2-DNF = 12

Division 2

J/70 (40 boats):

1. Midlife Crisis, Bruce Golison, Rossmoor, CA, 4-2-1 = 7
2. Nine, Oivind Lorentzen, Greenwich, CT, 1-8-3 = 12
3. Savasana, Brian Keane, Weston, MA, 9-7-4 = 20
4. New Wave, Martin Kullman, St. Petersburg, FL, 15-6-2 = 23
5. Scamp, Will Welles, Portsmouth, RI, 13-3-11 = 27

J/70 Corinthian (17 boats):

1. Joint Custody, Jenn & Ray Wulff, Annapolis, 5-4-22 = 31
2. Tea Dance Snake, Peter Bowe, Baltimore, 19-10-9 = 38
3. Muse, Heather Gregg/Joe Bardenheier, Boston, MA, 2-12-27 = 41

Viper 640 (12 boats):

1. Terminally Pretty, Mary Ewenson, Annapolis, 1-2-2 = 5
2. Vapor Trails, Mark Wheeler, Hampton, VA, 3-3-1 = 7
3. Deep State, Walt/Tricia Pletcher, Annapolis, 5-6-3 = 14

Division 3

J/24 (7 boats):

1. Bangor Packet, Tony Parker, Washington, DC, 1-1-1 = 3
2. Buxton, Peter Rich, Annapolis, 3-2-3 = 8
3. Spaceman Spiff, Pete Kassal, Annapolis, 4-3-2 = 9

J/30 (13 boats):

1. Totaled Mayhem, Doug/Amy Stryker, Crownsville, 2-2-1 = 5
2. Blue Meanie, Steve Buzbee, Highland Park, NJ, 3-1-3 = 7
3. Bluejacket, Sumner Parker, Morristown, NJ, 4-6-2 = 12

J/80 (20 boats):

1. USA 1162, John White, Annapolis, 4-1-2 = 7
2. More Gostosa, Conor Hayes, Gilford, NH, 3-4-1 = 8
3. Courageous, Gary Panariello, Sausalito, CA, 1-5-4 = 10
4. Vayu, David Andril, Arlington, VA, 5-6-8 = 19

Etchells (7 boats):

1. Cash Money, Matt Lalumiere, Chester, 1-3-2 = 6
2. R + D, Christopher Brady, Annapolis, 2-1-4 = 7
3. Caramba, Jose Fuentes, Washington, DC, 3-4-1 = 8

Division 4

J/35 (5 boats):

1. Aunt Jean, James Sagerholm/Jerry Christofel, Annapolis, 1-1-2 = 4
2. Abientot, Roger Lant, Alexandria, VA, 2-2-4 = 8
3. Medicine Man, Chuck Kohlerman, Aston, PA, 5-3-1 = 9

J/105 (22 boats):

1. Live Edge, Michael Mountford, Toronto, ON, 1-6-4 = 11
2. Bat IV, Andrew Kennedy, Washington, DC, 3-7-6 = 16
3. Mirage, Lewis/Salvesen, Annapolis, 6-1-10 = 17

4. Jester, Hugh Bethell, Baltimore, 9-9-1 = 19

5. DogHouse, Arthur Libby/Tom Carter, Severna Park, 5-4-13 = 22

J/111 (7 boats):

1. Skeleton Key, Peter Wagner, Atherton, CA, 1-1-1 = 3

2. Velocity, Martin Roesch, Fulton, 3-3-2 = 8

3. Bravo, Sedgwick Ward, Rye, NY, 6-4-3 = 13

C&C 30 (6 boats):

1. Extreme2, Dan Cheresh, Saugatuck, MI, 1-1-1-2 = 5

2. Nemesis, Walt Thirion, Annapolis, 2-2-3-5 = 12

3. Don't Panic, Julian Mann, San Francisco, CA, 3-3-4-3 = 13

Farr 30 (6 boats):

1. Ramrod, Rod Jabin, Annapolis, 1-1-2 = 4

2. Seabiscuit, Kevin McNeil, Annapolis, 2-3-1 = 6

3. Tangle, Peter Toombs, Charlottetown, PEI, 4-2-3 = 9

North Sails Rally Race

Cruisers (2 starters/finishers):

1. Magic 8 Ball (C&C 38), David Robinson, Annapolis, 2:57:44 c.t.

2. Celerity (Beneteau 473), Rick Lober, Dayton, +0:07:22 c.t.

Spinnaker (3 starters/finishers):

1. Jeroboam (Farr 400), Laurent Givry, Fairfax Station, VA, 2:43:46 c.t.

2. Orion (Hanse 371), Jon Opert, Galesville, +0:08:55 c.t.

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