

The Duck Challenge

Havre de Grace Yacht Club – Havre de Grace, Maryland

Dixie District – Fleet 192

August 20-21, 2011

Division: LIGHTNING (16 boats) (top)

Pos	Sail#	Boat	Skipper	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total
1	14548	Painkiller	Jon Guth/Jonathan Lange//Mike Constants	1	1	1	[8]	4	5	12
2	15024	Lube Tube	Trevor Prior/Danielle Prior/Matt Jay	3	3	[7]	4	3	2	15
3	15131		Patrick Phelan/Jason Phelan/Barb Hill	[8]	4	2	1	5	4	16
4	15142	Shadowfax	Nabeel Alsalam/Lisbet Kugler/Aaron Boesnecker	4	[9]	9	3	2	1	19
5	15055	Enigma	Hugh Hutchison/Cecile Steinriede/Gary Swangler	7	2	5	2	[8]	3	19
6	15083	Killer Biscuits	Jason Werner/Sharon Slieker-Jay/Jenn Millar	5	7	4	[13]	1	8	25
7	15135		Mark Sanford/Jen Adams/Heather Heinrich	2	6	6	5	[14]	6	25
8	14485	Deux Poissons et un Chat	Ron Buchanan/Jeff Ullman/Aubrey Wardwell	10	8	3	6	7	[17/DNF]	34
9	15093	Hers	Joan Hurban/Gary Hurban/Tyler Braun	15	5	10	10	6	[17/DNF]	46
10	14699	Toodle-oo	Allan Crew/John Mangel/Kent Steinriede	9	10	8	9	[17/DNC]	17/DNS	53
11	14484		Mike Mays/Mike Rabbetts/Mary Cairns	13	13	[16]	11	9	9	55
12	14525	Spitfire	John Bates/Hans & Michelle Roadenhauser	6	12	12	14	12	[17/DNF]	56
13	15118	Yellow Boat	Star Mikell III/Maggie Lee/Gary Hoffer	14	14	11	7	11	[17/DNF]	57
14	13989	Forty Two	Mike Maygar/Amber Maygar/Rob Pheris	12	[15]	15	12	13	7	59
15	13939	Rolling Thunder	Bill Johnson Jr./Bill Johnson III/Scott Davidson	11	11	14	16	15	[17/DNF]	67
16	15363	Sundancer	Greg Kelly/Bonnie Kelly/Bruce Heida	16	16	13	15	10	[17/DNF]	70

Notes

Scoring System is Lightning LowPoint

Finishes in [brackets] denote throwouts

Duck Challenge Regatta
Aug. 20/21, 2011

It's Monday the 22nd... Fatigue has set in from the weekend, but it's a good fatigue. Another Duck Challenge regatta is complete. Once again we had winds, which people doubt occurs in August on the Chesapeake. True, it's never guaranteed but once again there were enough varied wind speeds and directions to challenge the 16 boats which came together for competition and merriment.

The seeds of this regatta began after our small fleet (192) completed hosting the Dixie Districts in June. Two regattas for a fledgling fleet seems a tall order, but once again people stepped up to the plate to work to make it a fun time. With stalwarts like the Marley's volunteering to run the RC and newcomers Pat and Bill Johnson collaborating on food, decorations and raffle items and Fleet captain Tom Compton grilling, running mark boat and providing supplemental beer things were well under control!

Now to the racing...Well, Saturday dawned with fog and no wind, but by the time the Competitors meeting was completed there was a pleasant light breeze to meet the fleet for it's first race. For the fickle wind Gods this was just a tease as the wind began to die as the fleet was traversing the course. While one race made a regatta and this organizer was satisfied at that, we wanted more. So, we waited and baked, and waited and baked. Some swam, some sprayed water at each other. Others chatted, while the race committee listened to music in the shade (curses to them).

An eternity passed, then lo and behold a Sea Breeze filled in from the South and we had movement! Like a thirsty desert dweller to water we lapped up the wind and sailed 3 more races in ever strengthening wind. As things would shake out Jon Guth from Annapolis would dominate the days racing with or without the expected throw out by virtue of having earned 3 firsts out of the days four races ! My boat was in 2nd having progressively eliminated errors, but I'm sure I shared the sentiment that Jon had a hot hand and would be hard to overcome Sunday.

Before Sundays challenge the first hurdle facing the visitors on Saturday night was to avoid overindulging on the Steak/Salmon and beer. Having run out of some if not all, the group turned its attention to a raffle which earned some support for both the Junior Worlds team as well as our young local fleet. Amazingly, one boat gathered all the booty from the raffle (probabilities be damned for Bates & Co.).

The winning boat (of the raffle that is) proved to be a generous lot and shared one prize...a large glass vessel full of rum. Needless to say, there were several soundly sleeping sailors this night! The revelers proved once again, that like a child with few toys it only takes imagination to entertain oneself.

Sunday dawned with rain, dark clouds and an ominous noise with threads of white fear for sailors. Nevertheless we gathered for an attempt to challenge probabilities again and crack the lead of Jon Guth and crew. There were several competitors within reach of the challenge whose boats bore the name of *Enigma*, *Lube Tube*, *Shadowfax* and *Killer Biscuits*, not to mention the nameless boats. After a short delay we headed out with whitecaps and hope for an exciting day of sailing.

The first race saw the door open a little when the Guth/Constants/Lange team "struggled" to obtain a 4th. With the wind getting lighter and the specter of two more races to be contested a raffle on the water seemed to be shaping up. Who would bet on one side of the course or the other to obtain the ultimate prize? Not to be outraced in their home waters several local boats (Mays, Johnson) showed they had game and provided some early leadership around the course.

Although the courses were rather short in the stiffer breeze, which put a premium on starts, speed, and mark rounding, they seemed agonizing when the wind was dying as was the case for the 2nd and what turned out to be the last race. With that backdrop, the leaders found themselves in the back while the Prior/Prior/Jay boat sailing consistently towards the front despite the wind challenges. Also charging ahead in the mix was 2 time former Duck winner Alsalam/Kugler and Boesnecker who would end the day with a 2nd and 1st on their ledger.

Not to be undone, and true to its boat name of *Painkiller*, the Guth boat steadily extinguished (their) pain while inflicting it on the rest and slowly crawled back from mid fleet to finish the last race in 5th, good enough to secure the 1st place Duck decoy trophy for the first time. The next 4 finishers could only take consolation that they were able to produce respectable results in the changing and challenging conditions of this rendition of the Duck Challenge.

See you next year!

Respectfully submitted ...Patrick Phelan