

“Veloce” Wins J/105 Class, Boat of the Day Honors at Southern Bay Race Week

By Rich Payne

Down from Annapolis for Southern Bay Race Week, Marty Hublitz and Eddie Hornick’s “Veloce” came within one race of a clean sweep of the six races sailed in the storm-shortened 2011 edition of Southern Bay Race Week. Also participating were three boats from Fishing Bay Yacht Club, David Clark’s “Corryvreckan,” Mike Karn’s “Inevitable,” and Strother Scott’s “Loose Cannon.” Representing the host Hampton Yacht Club was Rich Payne’s “Flying Colors.” Southern Bay Race Week continues to grow every year, and for 2011, there were nearly 100 boats registered, competing in 7 PHRF, 3 One-Design, and 2 cruising classes, spread out over three race courses.

Racing all three days was scheduled to be conducted off Ocean View in the Bay, but when racers headed out to the course the first day of the regatta, they were redirected to alternate venues inside Hampton Roads harbor, due to lumpy conditions in the Bay after 24 hours of northerly winds. The harbor venue afforded smooth water in 10-12 knots of wind, as well as nice view of the warships of the Atlantic Fleet, in their berths at Naval Station Norfolk. Race 1 set a pattern which, with minor variations, continued throughout the regatta. “Veloce” won, “Inevitable” was second, and “Loose Cannon” was third. In Race 3, with the breeze dying, “Corryvreckan” capitalized on a good start and took second, relegating “Inevitable” to third. Day 2 of the regatta was sailed on the Ocean View course, with light and shifty northerly breeze and a moderate flood current. In the final race of the day, “Inevitable” broke “Veloce”’s string of bullets, relegating her to second in very light air.

On Sunday, racers who came early to the breakfast buffet just missed being rained on, as lightning and thunder heralded a good sized weather system, which began passing through the area just before 8 AM. The Race Committee announced a postponement ashore, hoping that the weather would clear in time for additional racing. As the rain continued to fall outside, the assembled race crews watched the weather radar on the lounge’s TV’s and assorted mobile devices, with the growing realization that the three hour window required was not going to happen. Racing was officially abandoned for the day, so the six races sailed Friday and Saturday constituted the regatta.

In the final results, “Veloce” won the class and was recognized as “Boat of the Day” on the West Course for Day 2 of the regatta. “Inevitable” was second overall, and “Loose Cannon” third. Detailed results for the regatta and for the Fleet 15 series can be found on the Results page. On to the Leukemia Cup Regatta at Fishing Bay on July 9th and 10th.