

CLOSE COMPETITION BRINGS SOUTHERN BAY ONE-DESIGN SERIES TO AN END AT STINGRAY POINT REGATTA 2009

By Rich Payne

The third and final event of the 2009 Southern Chesapeake Bay J/105 One Design Series was conducted Saturday and Sunday, September 5 and 6, at Fishing Bay Yacht Club's Stingray Point Regatta. Regatta organizers had hoped to conduct three races Saturday and two races Sunday, and conditions allowed all five races to be sailed. Although boats coming up the Bay from Hampton on Friday bucked a 17-knot north wind, and sped home Monday on a 20-knot east wind, conditions over the weekend were more moderate, in the 8-10 knot range on Saturday, and in the 10-12 knot range on Sunday. Six of the eight boats in Fleet 15 were on the start line, with Eddie Hornick's "Veloce" and Cyane Crump's "She Crab Soup" opting to compete in one-design at Annapolis Race Week.

After a brief postponement, Race 1 on Saturday got off in 8-10 knots of breeze out of the north, and racers completed a two-lap windward-leeward course for both Races 1 and 2. During these first two races, Brad Davis's "Blade Runner" and Strother Scott's "Loose Cannon" demonstrated superior boat speed, trading first and second places in the first two races. Rich Payne's "Flying Colors" took third in Race 1, and David Clark's "Corryvreckan" took third in Race 2. With the breeze dying late in the afternoon, the Race Committee set a shorter windward-leeward-windward course for Race 3. This race was won by "Corryvreckan," relegating "Blade Runner" and "Loose Cannon" to second and third respectively.

With the wind clocking around the northeast, and a slight increase in velocity, Race 4 on Sunday was another two-lap windward-leeward course, won by Mike Karn's "Inevitable," with "Loose Cannon" and "Flying Colors" taking second and third. With the wind holding, the Race Committee set a slightly longer race for Race 5 by adding a final windward leg. "Blade Runner," "Loose Cannon," and "Inevitable" took first, second, and third.

In the overall regatta standings for the class, two of the six places had to be determined by tie-breakers. "Blade Runner" nosed out "Loose Cannon" for first place by virtue of two first-place finishes, and "Inevitable" nosed out "Flying Colors" for fourth by virtue of a first place finish in Race 4. "Corryvreckan" won an uncontested third place.

Going into the regatta, the Southern Chesapeake Bay One-Design series appeared to be a three-horse race among "Blade Runner," "Inevitable," and "Corryvreckan." In this final event, Brad Davis' "Blade Runner" built on a slight lead to win the series by a convincing margin. David Clark's "Corryvreckan" nosed out Mike Karn's "Inevitable" for second. Complete regatta and final series standings can be found on the Results page.