



TALBOTT & LEE INGRAM WIN 2011 COMET CLASS NORTH-AMERICANS



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S HELM

The sailing season is in full swing. Having just completed the North Americans we are already half-way through the season. The Internationals will be held on August 26-27-28 in Oxford, Maryland at TRED AVON YACHT CLUB. This event will be during TAYC's Annual Heritage Regatta. Our International's will be scored for all three days while the Heritage will score us for the 27th and 28th only. Imagine winning both regattas at the same time! Having two different winners is more likely, toward spreading the trophies around. I truly hope that many of you will make plans to attend this great event at a beautiful location on the Chesapeake Bay. Peter Tasi, the contact for this regatta, can be reached at pdtasidesign@gmail.com or 410.263.5629.

I am excited to say we have a new web master in Christina Lauver. She and her husband Joe got into Comets last year. They sail out of Harrisburg Pa. on the Susquehanna River along with Chris Price and are working very hard to grow their fleet. It is nice to have some younger sailors come into the class.

The North Americans were held June 11-12 at SSA in Annapolis Md. We had twelve boats sail four races in what turned out to be very difficult conditions. The wind came from ENE which is not normal at all. Sailing out to the course we had good wind; then it died down until the expected SW wind should have filled in. It didn't until 3:30 after we finished. We had a very competitive regatta in spite of the light air. Congratulations to Talbott and Lee for winning this year.

Finally, the season is moving along quickly so get your boats out and do some sailing. Remember the class has 3 loaner boats for people to use. Let's get them out there!

Also, if you have any Comet Fleet news please forward them to Peter Tasi for the next E-NEWS letter.

Wick Dudley, President, CCYRA.



2nd Place

Wick Dudley and assorted crews

Elliot Oldak, Fleet 40 presented the trophies. assisted by Wick



3rd Place

Bob Slook and his daughter, Brittney



4th Place

Andy Wood and his sister, Cindy

SEVERN SAILING ASSOCIATION

*was a fine host for the 2011 NORTH AMERICANS,
which was spearheaded by Regatta Chairman Peter Tasi.
With the aid of SSA kitchen crew, good meals were served
accompanied by a steady flow from the keg.*

The most challenged group was the ace Race Committee, and they were up to the task. They made every effort to get in the five races; however Mother Nature would not allow them. Leaving the docks on Saturday morning, steady winds got us to the starting line on schedule, but it was downhill from there. The first race was a windward leeward course with 3 windward legs, though someone (Ingram) thought it was just a four leg course. Bob and Brittney Slook led the entire race followed by Talbott and Lee Ingram, until he was misinformed about the finish. By the time the two figured out the finish was to windward, Elliot Oldak found a nice port lift to win the race, with Wick Dudley sliding into third. With much luck, Ingram was able to sneak in for a second. Slook unfortunately had to settle for a fourth.

After a delay while the wind settled in, the second race began. It was to be another windward-leeward with five legs. Ingram got off to a good start with Wick over early. After restarting, Wick crept a little faster up the right side and was leading at the first mark with Ingram right behind. With the wind blowing about 1 kt, the downwind leg took forever. The RC put us out of our misery by shortening the race at the leeward mark. Wick won by two feet.

With no wind over the horizon from any direction, the RC abandoned for the day.

The schedule for Sunday was to get in three races, but the wind Gods would not allow it. We sailed out for the first start, only to have the wind die at the first weather mark. Wick and the Ingram's coasted to a downwind finish with Wick coming up short by a few yards.

The fourth race got off to another slow start. Elliott had a good start and soon went to the right. Slook and Brad Meade had good starts and went to the left side. Slook was leading only to be passed by Meade before the downwind finish of another shortened race. Knowing it could be the final race of the series, Wick and Ingram duked it out with Andy Wood and his sister, Cindy caught in the middle. Slowly catching up was the young team of Ed McLean and Terry Jackson. Andy came through with a third in the race and a fourth in the series. The Ingram's held off Wick Dudley, to keep a little breathing room in the point spread for the victory. Bob Slook and his daughter Brittney finished one point behind Wick. This was a close series, with very challenging conditions.

As the fleet was finishing the thunder clouds were forming with a storm not far away. By the time we all got back to the club and unrigged, the skies opened. A good call to send the fleet in after four races, to keep the fleet out of harms way.



Stoney Duffey and Reed Rogers



Andy Wood and Cindy



Brad Meade and Andrew Rogers



Ed McLean and Terry Jackson



**COMETS NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP
 JUNE 11-12 SEVERN SAILING ASSOCIATION
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND
 4 RACES SCORED
 12 BOATS**

Pos.	Sail	Club	Skipper	1	2	3	4	Total Points	Pos
1	4099	SSYC	Ingram, Talbot	2	2	1	4	9.00	1
2	4131	CRYC	Dudley, Wick	3	1	2	5	11.00	2
3	4074	SSYC	Slook, Bob	4	3	3	2	12.00	3
4	4089	CRYC	Wood, Andy	5	4	4	3	16.00	4
5	3468		Meade, Brad	6	5	6	1	18.00	5
6	4037	SSA	Oldak, Elliot	1	6	5	7	19.00	6
7	4069	SSA	McLean, Ed	7	13/TLE	7	6	33.00	7
8	4046	CRYC	Downes, Sandy	8	9	8	10	35.00	8
9	3951		Lauver, Joe	11	7	10	8	36.00	9
10	4137	CRYC	Duffy, Stoney	9	8	9	13/DNC	39.00	10
11	3864	SSA	Tasi, Peter	10	13/TLE	11	9	43.00	11
12	3973		Roth, Charles	13/DNC	13/DNC	13/DNC	13/DNC	52.00	

Small Boats Big Stories

by Kim Couranz

Often times when we go to regattas, we experience weather and conditions completely unlike what experience would lead us to expect, and regatta organizers and hometowners exclaim, “It’s never like this here!” Other times, it’s exactly what we expect.

And still others, it’s so very much like what we expect, it’s as though Mother Nature is overachieving. Such was the case for the Comet North American Championship held June 11 to 12 on the Severn River off Annapolis. Hot? Humid? Light? Lumpy? Understatements, all. Talbott and Lee Ingram of Shrewsbury Sailing and YC (Oceanport, NJ) found the light-air boat speed and patience they needed to top the fleet with nine points in four races.

Twelve boats from around the mid-Atlantic region endured the conditions but enjoyed the camaraderie at the regatta, hosted by the Severn Sailing Association (SSA). Wick Dudley from the Corsica River YC (Centreville, MD) sailed with Morgan Bench on Saturday and John Criezis on Sunday to a second-place total of 11 points, while Shrewsbury Sailing and YC’s Bob Slook, sailing with his daughter Brittney, captured third with 15 points. While Brittney has lots of Opti sailing experience, this was her first time in the Comet crewing for her dad.

It was also the first time in the Comet for Criezis, who hadn’t planned on sailing on Sunday. But when Wick Dudley—tied for first after Saturday—found himself unexpectedly without crew, fellow competitor and regatta chair Elliot Oldak canvassed the parking lot in search of crew to ensure that Dudley could continue to compete.

“It was just the right thing to do. Here’s the guy leading the regatta; it would have

been disingenuous to just leave him on the dock,” Oldak emphasizes. “We wanted to be sure he could keep sailing.” Turns out, Principal Race Officer Mark Hasslinger’s race committee was well staffed, and Criezis—already sitting on the safety boat he planned to staff for the day—was invited to try out the Comet.

“It was fun and nice to have the opportunity,” Criezis, who primarily sails Lasers out of SSA, notes. “The hull design, with the chines, accelerates pretty well even with just a little bit



■ Hot? Humid? Light? Lumpy? Understatements, all. The Comet North Americans off Annapolis June 12. Photo by Dan Phelps

of wind.” Maybe the Comet fleet just found another top-notch crew!

Speaking of top-notch sailors, on-the-water experience was an important commodity. No other team could touch the 163-year combined age of Ed McLean and Terry Jackson. Jackson grumps, “But we couldn’t break into the top three.”

The 16-foot Comet was designed in 1932 by C. Lowndes Johnson of Easton, MD, who was a champion Star sailor. What is now called the Comet was initially referred to as the “Crab” and the “Star Junior” with its Star class heritage clearly evident in its hull design and sail plan. To honor the Comet’s Chesapeake heritage, Comet No. 1 is on display at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels.

Tips from the Podium

Talbott and Lee Ingram captured the top spot at the 2011 Comet North American Championship. While clearly Talbott and Lee have found success sailing Comets, they have also enjoyed competing in U.S. Sailing championship events, including the Mallory Cup and Adams Cup.

You had superior speed in the light air and lumps this weekend. What worked for you?

Talbott: We’ve sailed together for about 42 years now, so our communication in the boat really helps us get the most out of it. We constantly talk through all those details. Heel angle. How hard we’re roll tacking. A little bit more jib trim.

So you’ve actually sailed together for just a few years longer than you’ve been married. How did you start sailing together?

Talbott: We grew up, both skippering, at competing yacht clubs across the river from each other.

Lee: At first, when we started sailing together, we had a pretty good back-and-forth about who should drive. But we ended up with Talbott driving.

Talbott: Back in 1970, I asked Lee to crew for me in a big Comet regatta. It was blowing 20 to 25, and our gooseneck—we had wooden masts back then—broke. So around the leeward mark, I asked Lee to drive while I lashed the boom to the mast. She was willing and more than able. Then and there, I knew I had a keeper as a crew—and more!