

Comets Return to Northern Lake George Yacht Club

It's wasn't Haley's Comet, but it might well have been. These Comets also haven't been seen in these parts for many years. We're talking about the Comet Class of sailboats. In honor of the NLGYC's 75th birthday this summer, the Comets held their 2015 North American Championship here on Lake George on June 20 & 21.

Thirteen boats from as far away as the Chesapeake Bay converged on Hague, NY to vie for the coveted Princeton Bowl, a huge silver bowl trophy. Five races were held with close racing on a beautiful Lake George weekend. South winds of 6-11 mph created perfect conditions for Comet racing.

Boats arrived throughout the day on Friday, greeted by club members and old friends. Sailors were treated to a home-cooked spaghetti dinner (provided by Donna Wotton, playing double duty as our PRO for the weekend) and a friendly tub of beer. NLGYC is a friendly family-based sailing club with a big old Adirondack "salt box" building for a clubhouse. Just beyond the small islands the lake opens to it's widest point (3 miles wide), creating a big sailing basin surrounded by the beautiful Adirondack Mountains.

Saturday was a bright sunny day. The race committee waited for a short time for the prevailing south wind to fill before getting off three quick races before lunch. Talbott and Lee Ingram of Shrewsbury YC won the first race, with Kevin Buruchian and Danielle Dubois of Massapaug YC a close second. Buruchian/Dubois rallied to win the second race, and the Ingrams won the third race.

The wind freshened to 9-11 mph after lunch for two more great races. With more breeze, the race committee changed to a triangle-windward-leeward course for some fun reaching. Race 4 was won by Brad Meade and Leenie Costanzo of Shrewsbury with Peter and Marion Abell taking a chilly "swim" at the gybe mark.

In the final race of the day, Rick Dhein and Ricky Rottier came in hot from the right on the downwind finish and nearly caught the Ingrams, but had to settle for 2nd by a boat length. There was close racing all day with the entire first half of the fleet changing places in the standings in each race.

Saturday night was an evening of camaraderie for all the competitors at the local country club. Good food, good company, good times for all.

The weather wasn't as cooperative on Sunday. True to the weather predictions, the lake was even beautiful as sheet of glass under gray skies and there was no racing. The five races on Saturday constituted the series. In the end consistency won the day and the Ingrams took home the Princeton Bowl.

Special thanks to NLGYC Past Commodore Peter Abell who began sailing Comets as a teen, and sailed in the top ranks of the class nationally for many years with his wife Marion. Peter and Marion were responsible for enticing the Comet Class back to Lake

George for their Championship regatta and organizing the event for NLGYC. We hope to return to this fantastic venue again very soon.