

Comet Pumpkin Bowl – November 2, 2013

On November 2nd, the Comet sailors spent a beautiful Saturday on the water for the Pumpkin Bowl that was hosted by the Tred Avon Yacht Club in Oxford, Md. Sailors from Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey showed up for a total of 12 Comets who were also joined by 12 Laser and Penguin frostbiters to keep things interesting on the water.

At the beginning of the day, sailors were greeted with sun, warm temps, and a wind delay. The waiting time however was welcomed by the sociable Comet sailors and the time was spent checking out some of the boat set-ups, a beloved past time of the sailor.

Talbott and Lee Ingram of Shrewsbury Sailing Yacht Club were hoisting the flashier Mylar sails which are now allowed by the class in the hopes of drawing more attention to the boats. The Comet has a lot of history, but that doesn't mean it can't keep up with the latest technologies.

Joe Lauver of SYC enjoys sailing with his young son Ian. But Joe found that Ian had trouble pushing the whisker pole out and getting the boat set-up for the downwind legs due to his smaller size. Joe's boat is now set-up so that the whisker pole lies vertically against the mast. Around the top mark, Ian can pull a line that brings the whisker pole perpendicular to the mast and ready to be attached to the jib.

The greatest attraction of that Saturday morning however was hull number 4148, owned by Wick Dudley. [As talked about in the November issue of Sailing World](#), Comets are getting a new look. The hope is to provide a more modern look and added comfort but still stay true to the roots of the class. The hull maintains the same outside as well as has the same fittings and lines that any other Comet has access to. Wick was also sporting the new Dakron sails that include a full top batton, a larger window for increased visibility, and the option of rigging the main footless.

The breeze did eventually fill in during the early part of the afternoon and races were held just off the club's beach. The breeze was patchy and light, but there was just enough that boats would still move forward in the strong flood tide. All afternoon, the sailing was a game of finding the puff and keeping yourself in it while also being conscious of where you were in relation to the channel. Boats got in trouble when they found themselves in holes that seemed to come out of nowhere and losing patience with the irregular shifts.

Talbott and Lee Ingram in Gemini came out on top with two firsts and a second. They were followed by Elliott Oldak and his crew Barbara Best in Brute of Severn Sailing Association. Wick Dudley and his daughter Elizabeth of Corsica River Yacht Club took third place in Wicked, winning the tie breaker with Bob Slook and Patrick Keating in Phantom.

Overall it was a great day in Oxford and the Comet sailors enjoyed getting together for the final regatta of the 2013 season. Members of the Comet class have developed strong friendships with one another and it is days and events like the Pumpkin Bowl that keep these sailors coming back for more.