

Regatta News

Dana Point Midwinters

Airboss claims first regatta win in perfect conditions at Dana Point.



Jon Dekker and his crew on Airboss won the first High Points regatta of the 2006 season. Seventeen J/105s were on the line with four races on Saturday and a single race on Sunday. This, the first ever High Points win for Airboss, was done in fine style with a consistent 4,2,7,3,3 series. Congratulations Jon. Well done!

The conditions on Saturday were perfect for J/105 racing with

flat water, no kelp and a westerly that built to 15 to 18 kts for most of the afternoon. Jon was followed by second place Chile Pepper and third place Wings in the final overall standings. There were no repeat winners in the five races demonstrating how even the competition is in the J/105 class.

The first race of the regatta resulted in a popular win by Lowell North and his veteran crew

Upcoming Regattas

March is the start of our very busy J/105 regatta season with opportunities to compete in One Design regattas pretty much every week. Sunday, March 5 is opening day at the Santa Barbara Yacht Club with a one day regatta that includes starts for the J/105 fleet.

March 11 and 12 are the dates for the first event in the San Diego J/105 Southern Series. We expect to have as many as six practice races on Saturday and three points races on Sunday. If you are coming to San Diego for NOOD please join the San Diego fleet for this event.



The San Diego NOOD, hosted by the San Diego Yacht Club, is on March 18th and 19th. Please note the J/105s are not racing on Friday, March 17th.

Details and on-line entries are available for the San Diego events at the SDYC website. The Southern Series NOR is on the Fleet 8 website. Please get your entries in as soon as possible.

- John Downing

on his new boat Triple Play (formerly Manta-J). Mischief and Grace O'Malley got off to a rocky start, each with an OCS in race 1.

Chile Pepper took the second race with Airboss leading the crowd close behind.

After a general recall in race 3 the Z flag went up catching Grace O'Malley, Belly Dancer and Straight Edge. Mischief won the one lap sprint. Space Cowboy showed some speed finishing second while holding off Chile Pepper and Rick Goebel's Sanity.

Belly Dancer, after showing excellent speed with a third and a fifth in the first two races had a spinnaker problem in the third race and sailed last downwind leg without the chute. Steve Grillon and the Belly Dancer crew are going to be a force to be reckoned with!

Saturday's final race was held in a steady 15 to 18 kt WSW breeze. At the start four boats; Belly Dancer, Chile Pepper, Triple Play and Sanity tried to occupy space just big enough for three at the weather end of the line resulting in a little NASCAR style "rubbing is racing." A few flags were thrown but all failed in the protest room. No damage was done and all of the boats got off to a clean start. Wings, starting in the middle of the line, clear of the mess, went on to a convincing win followed by Mischief and the steady Airboss.

After four races on Saturday Wings led with 12 points followed by Chile Pepper and Airboss tied at 16. Carolyn Hardy's Mischief,

the 2002 Midwinters winner, would have been in the hunt had it not been for her OCS in the first race.

Sunday was a classic Dana Point kind of day with a Santa Ana working against the onshore flow resulting in shifty and light conditions full of holes for the unwary. At the start Triple Play and Chile Pepper took the pin end of the line and went left. Space Cowboy followed by Speedplay started at the weather end of the line and immediately went right. Airboss had a mid line start and looked to be in trouble. Then the wind shifted 30 degrees to the left scrambling everyone's game plan. Those on the left found themselves on the wrong side of the shift while Space Cowboy and Speedplay rode the lefty to the mark. Space Cowboy rounded the weather mark five boat lengths ahead of the pack. Mid pack, Airboss led the rapidly improving Steve Howell's Blink, Zuni Bear and Chile Pepper.

At Dana Point the S/F line is set between the weather and leeward marks and is closed. This arrangement precludes going down the middle and forces an early decision as to which side of the course to play downwind. Space Cowboy, followed by Sanity, Speedplay, Airboss, Blink and one or two others chose the right (which was nearest the shoreline) and stayed in good pressure most of the way to the leeward gate. The rest including Zuni Bear and Wings chose the left side and sailed straight into a hole. A small dead spot at the leeward gate bunched up the leaders and let a

few of the mid pack stragglers catch up. Space Cowboy sailed clear of the pack once again to take a commanding win. Blink sailed an excellent race to finish second. Steve Howell purchased Blink (formerly Invisible and Snake Wake) last summer and started racing SDYC One Design Weekends after a long absence from regattas. It's truly a family affair with his wife and son in the crew. This was Steve's very first High Points regatta. Great job Steve! Airboss followed Blink in yet another third place finish. Grace O'Malley finished fourth followed by Sanity and Chile Pepper. Wings never recovered from sailing into the hole in the first leeward leg and finished a disappointing eleventh.

It should be noted that Space Cowboys Jim and Sue Baranski attributed their win to the fact that they closed the bar at DPYC the previous evening. Steve Howell verified the Baranski's story. It seems that he and his crew closed the bar with the Baranskis. First and second place closing the bar the night before? Hmmmm, sounds like they may be on to something!

After a 45 minute postponement waiting for the Santa Ana to fill in, the sixth and final race was cancelled.

In 1999 the J/105 fleet moved out of PHRF and had it's own start at the DPYC Midwinters. Thor (does anyone know what became of this boat?) won the three race series. Belly Dancer - now returned after a six year Midwinters absence - finished

fifth. With the 2006 Midwinters now in the record books Airboss, Mischief and Speedplay have all competed in five consecutive DPYC Midwinters. Chile Pepper, Wings and Pendragon have all raced in four. Space Cowboy,

Rock N Roll, and Twelve Bar Blues have competed in three Midwinters. Of course, this doesn't include the efforts in Schock 35s by the Cases and Carolyn which pre-date their J/105 activities. Congratulations to all!

And welcome back to the fleet Steve Gillon and the Belly Dancers!

Larry Harteck's repeat Offender sweeps the Santa Barbara Hot Rum Series

The Santa Barbara Yacht Club Hot Rum Series consists of three races held over two weekends in January and February. Of the 20 boats entered in the series, six were J/105s. In addition to Repeat Offender, Short Skirt, Joie De Vivre, Escapade, Rock & Roll and Free Enterprise all entered with all but Free Enterprise sailing in at least one of the three races. Repeat Offender, sailing against some pretty serious competition, won all three races to sweep the series. Great job, Larry! And you thought we weren't paying attention.....

Dennis and Sharon Case's Wings takes the January SDYC One Design Weekend

Wings was the decisive winner of the January 7 SDYC One Design Weekend with a 4-1-1 for the three race Saturday only series. Nine J/105s competed with Space Cowboy winning the first race. Airboss was second in the regatta followed by Lowell North's Triple Play. A tie for fourth at 12 points between Javelin and Chile Pepper was decided by going two races deep in the tie breaker in favor of Javelin.

Please distribute this little newsletter to your crew and prospective J/105 owners. Please send me the email addresses of those who you think might enjoy reading - or contributing - to it.

Results and write-ups of events featuring our fellow J/105 Fleet 8 members are most welcome. Please send in notices of upcoming races featuring the J/105 class - even PHRF events - especially those which provide a separate start for the J/105 class.

fairwinds,

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