

## Hangover Bowl 2015

Cedar Point's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hangover Bowl took place on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The rather intimidating forecast for 20 knot winds gusting to 30 and temperatures in the 20's kept the turnout very low, but it turned out to be a nice sailing day, with west-southwesterly winds in the mid-teens, a few gusts in the low 20's, and bright sun.

Nice sailing if you were wearing three layers, a fleece balaclava, and sailing a Radial rig, that is. Larry Marner boldly set out with a full Laser rig and stayed upright, but found the conditions too much, and headed back in early. AJ Sorenson and Halsey Bullen sailed with Radials, and Betsy Sorenson used her 4.7 rig to advantage.

Race Committee members Bill Dickey, Ed Rickard, and Jim Sorenson set good long courses despite the tight confines inside Saugatuck Harbor. They took pity on the racers by setting conventional courses, rather than the backward finish, 360 turn on each leg, or come-within-chug amusements traditional in the Hangover Bowl: there were no complaints. The first race triangle saw Halsey take a good lead on the first windward leg; AJ caught him on the first reach: all three boats survived the turn at the jibe mark positioned rather close to the lee shore (Betsy chose to tack instead of jibing); AJ led at the bottom mark but Halsey out-hiked him on the final beat to take the win. The second race was windward-leeward, but went about the same; AJ missed his hiking strap at the start (a tired shock cord left the strap flat on the cockpit floor) and took a brief swim; Halsey built up a lead on the first beat; AJ screamed by on the run, and Halsey was able to re-take the lead on the final beat after AJ took another brief swim at the bottom mark. The water in the flats was getting very shallow by this time as low tide approached, and by unanimous agreement we sailed in after having a lot of fun on the water.

Halsey attributed his success to his high-wind strategy: very tight Cunningham and boomvang to flatten the sail upwind, keep a weather eye out for the next big puff and/or shift (never more than a minute away on this day), and keep the mast pointing up at all times.

Afterwards, the competitors and RC warmed up and got to choose prizes provided by the generous sponsors for this event. Halsey grabbed a magnificent Harry & David food basket donated by Benchmark Senior Living at Ridgefield Crossings, AJ and Betsy Sorenson claimed \$40 gift cards from the Boat Locker (now at its huge new store at 706 Howard Ave. in Bridgeport) and also cold-weather racing gloves from West Marine in Stamford, Jim and Ed got the two bottles donated by Castle Wine & Spirits of Westport, and Bill and Halsey got a Rooster compression vest and polypropylene socks donated by AJ Sorenson's XD Sailing business. Assistant club manager Justin Pecor had the support boats and equipment working beautifully and the clubhouse looking great. A fine way to start the new year!