



## Cedar Point Yacht Club

*Sailboat Racing at its Best*



### **2005 CPYC Laser Hangover Bowl Report January 1, 2005 Westport CT**

#### **Cedar Point Laser Fleet Rings in the New Year**

Saturday, January 1, 2005. The promise of warm weather and fair winds brought out a record 32 Laser sailors for the 23rd running of the Cedar Point Hangover Bowl. Regatta chairman Eric Robbins more than delivered on the promise of fun sailing, prizes, food and camaraderie. The weather was fantastic, with lots of sun, temps in the low 50's and wind out the Northwest at 15-20. The racing took place in the harbor, which provided plenty of chances for everyone to test out their strategy and tactics.

Thanks to our sponsors, Rooster Sailing (John Dawson-Edwards) and Depot Liquors who supplied most excellent prizes. Their generous support also helped to make the event free for everyone. If you have a chance to support them, please do so.

We had 7 races in 2.5 hours, quite a feat considering it was just 12 hours past the dropping of the ball. Race one was a triangle and Harry Weyher, IV, fresh from a 5th place in the Orange Bowl regatta in Miami showed his transom to the fleet. Harry has a few more years to go before he can fulfill the requirement of all Hangover race winners, there's a rumor that someone is keeping count of how many drinks Harry will have to consume when he's 21. Race 2 was a W/L and recent San Diego transplant, Rodrigo Meireles, who found sailing in the harbor similar to sailing on Mission Bay, won the race.

Eric's imagination went into gear for race 3, and everyone had to finish the race on the downwind leg by sailing backwards across the line. It's the one time that getting into "irons" is actually beneficial. Paul Craine showed his bow to the rest of the fleet to win this one. Race 4 was a Windward/Leeward -or- Leeward/Windward. In other words, your choice on which way you wanted to start and sail the course. I'm sure watching the fleet split up and aim at each other at the start provided great entertainment to all the spectators. It reminds me of those "wildest police chases" when someone goes the wrong way down the highway. Blake Marriner led the group that started downwind, and Britt Hughes led the group that started upwind. Blake guessed right and won the race, Britt finished 4th. Race 5 was a "Harry Anderson" course, with two "spray in your face", flat out hiking reaches. Perhaps it was destiny, most likely it was good sailing, in either case Harry W won the race.

Race 6 was a triangle with extra icing on the cake. Everyone had to do a 360 turn on every leg. Talk about strategy. Do you do your turns early in the leg or late, sail towards a lull to avoid

capsizing ? Meanwhile you have to keep your eyes out for the kamikazes in the midst of their circles. Race winner Chris Johannessen found the answer, get out in front with a big enough lead and all the other questions were meaningless.

Eric saved the best for last, Race 7 was the infamous "Come within Chug" race. On the first downwind leg, you had to sail close enough to the committee boat to catch a beverage, drink the beverage, and deposit the empty can back in the committee boat on your way back upwind. Sounds easy enough right ? Well, with almost 30 boats and the puffy conditions, it was inevitable that there would be some big clumps approaching the RC boat downwind and sure enough, there were. If you were on the RC boat, you were either busy tossing cans or ducking behind the console to avoid the wayward boom. Steve Fisk showed us all how to do "the downwind flying, catch your mainsheet in the RC cleat" maneuver. The return trip was equally as challenging, resembling the old figure eight dirt track races as port and starboard tackers crossed each other as they flipped their empties back in the boat. Mark Foster won the race, using much the same strategy as Chris did in race six.

That ended the racing for the day, it was now time to head in, clean up and catch up with old and new friends. We had a number of first timers join us, we hope you will come back and sail in the spring series. Dave Foster had cooked up some hot chilli for everyone, which was enjoyed by all as the scores were calculated for the day. As you have already figured out, no one dominated the day. Blake was the most consistent and won overall. Chris finished second, Rodrigo tied Chris on points, but finished 3rd. Harry finished fourth and once again provided his dad with a small token of appreciation when he picked up his trophy of Jack Daniels. Britt finished 5th for the day. Congratulations also to Halsey Bullen as the first Grand Master and Andy Hoffman as the first radial. Check out the results to see all the great prizes our sponsors provided. A big thanks also to everyone who volunteered to do RC and provided the snacks we all enjoyed. It truly was a great way to celebrate the start of 2005.

## **Results**

*- Greg Marriner*