

To: The Republican Newspaper

Attention: Trevor King

From: Ellen Tran

Subject: Sail Column, please acknowledge receipt

July 7, 2019

Firecracker Regatta on 4 July 2020

By Ellen Tran

The Firecracker Regatta took place on Saturday the 4th of July, no races occurred on Sunday due to lack of wind. Two separate courses were set one for Lasers the smaller 14 foot sailboat and one for the Flying Scots. Ten lasers sailed in four races the wind was light Eric/Gayle Von Eckartsberg were the pros for the laser fleet with Charles Graham on patrol. Jill Bennett finished the day with four first place finishes her competitors traded off second, third, and fourth in the races. The Junior's sailed in both Full and Radial sails. Bruce Spinnenweber/Sue Wolffe set the course for the Flying Scots with Geri Meehan keeping score and Abe Getty on patrol. Thank you all!

The races on Saturday were held back to back, due to the fear that the light 5mph breeze would die at any moment. I am not a fan of sailing when the breeze is so light and the boat traffic is plentiful, we call it a "shake & bake day" due to the sun and the constant bobbing of the boat. The first race was a triangle windward/leeward, which meant first we did an upwind beat to the windward mark to a jibe mark followed by downwind run to the leeward mark, another upwind beat to the windward mark, then another downwind run to the leeward mark, for a shorter upwind beat to the finish line. As I surveyed the starting line near Holy Cross, to my surprise I spotted Tyler Andrew, the owner of Flying Scot crewing for John Meredith. Watching two expert sailors on the same boat seemed to make the light wind even lighter. Oh well, their pairing kind of seals the first place spot before the eight boats in Gold Fleet started the race. Well I kept trying to copy John/Tyler during the start, not a great idea I fouled Dave/Karen Meehan with my port tack start attempt. Quoc Tran and I quickly did our 720 penalty turn and proceeded to the windward mark, sure enough we were the last boat to round the mark. During the downwind run we caught two boats thanks to Quoc's expert spinnaker trimming and the advantage of being closer to the wind when it filled in. Our mark rounding was good, I did not worry about any other boats, maintaining focus is all I tried to do. The light breeze unexpectedly seemed to be in a way more tiring than 22mph gusts from last week. Saturday we had to minimize movements and slowly move from side to side of the boat to either hike to leeward or move to windward when the wind filled. I lost track how many times we had to keep gently moving so we did not upset the precious balance of the boat so it would keep moving forward. I rounded the 2nd leeward mark with two boats behind me and proceeded up the last sailing leg not worrying about anything but boat speed. I stayed to the right side of the course and tacked onto starboard at the last possible moment to aim

for the Finish Pin. To my surprise we finished 3rd in the 1st race. Questions went through my head how could this have happened? Quoc had to tell me to stop dancing in the boat, poor taste and all, Meredith Hillyer actually called us “sneaky”. Well I’ve been called a lot worse.

Twenty-three Flying Scots survived the wave filled waters and luckily no one was near this pontoon boat when it capsized just south of the course.



Capsized Pontoon

Photo Courtesy of Quoc Tran

After the first race we stayed near the starting line so we could be ready for the next race. Unfortunately we did not pack a lunch or snack like James Hillyer who let his Mom take over steering the boat while he ate lunch.



Meredith/James Hillyer

Photo Courtesy of Quoc Tran

Bruce/Sue adjusted the starting line before the second race which was shortened to a triangle. Phew I thought this could get really bad if the wind does not fill in. We had an average start, at least we did not foul anyone this time. The downwind mark rounding seemed like it could get really ugly we were had to make room for three boats as we rounded the leeward mark. Meanwhile two boats had to make room for us the mark rounding(s) looked orderly no major pin-wheeling happening just six boats one after another rounding the mark. The boats that rounded before me tacked onto starboard. Quoc and I did not tack, in addition to the constant switching of his weight Quoc also had to tell me the position of the outside telltale on the sail because I could not see it the way the sun was hitting the sail. Again I just focused on boat speed which seemed to pay off. However shortly after we tacked onto starboard to approach the finish line the boat seemed to auto-tack as we hit a no wind zone. Colorful words escaped by mouth as our boat stalled and I feared David/Karen would gain the lead. Stay calm, Quoc coached they have to be in the same crappy wind. Eventually we crossed the Finish line to our surprise in this race we finished 4th enough to keep our Podium spot. Awesome, next weekend is the Laser Regatta! Hope the sailboats out-number the power boats.

Race Results [skipper/crew(s)]

Firecracker Regatta Saturday, July 4

Laser Open

Race 1 – 1 Jill Bennett, 2 Mark Schaefer, 3 Greg Schaefer

Race 2 – 1 Jill Bennett, 2 Mark Schaefer, 3 Greg Schaefer

Race 3 – 1 Jill Bennett, 2 Greg Schaefer, 3 Peter Frey

Race 4 – 1 Jill Bennett, 2 Greg Schaefer, 3 Mark Schaefer

Podium 1 Jill Bennett, 2 Greg Schaefer, 3 Mark Schaefer

Laser Junior Full

Race 1 – 1 Reid Kusic, 2 Grayson Kusic, 3 Austin Latimer

Race 2 – 1 Austin Latimer, 2 Grayson Kusic, 3 Reid Kusic

Race 3 – 1 Reid Kusic, 2 Grayson Kusic, 3 Austin Latimer

Race 4 – 1 Reid Kusic, 2 Austin Latimer

Podium 1 Grayson Kusic, 2 Reid Kusic, 3 Austin Latimer

Laser Junior Radial

Race 1 – 1 Rose Von Eckartsberg, 2 Colin Haraway, Emme Haraway

Race 2 – 1 Colin Haraway, 2 Rose Von Eckartsberg, 3 Emme Haraway

Race 3 – 1 Emme Haraway, Rose Von Eckartsberg, 3 Colin Haraway

Race 4 – 1 Rosie Von Eckartsberg, 2 Colin Haraway, Emme Harway

Podium 1 Rosie Von Eckartsberg, 2 Colin Haraway, Emme Harway

Flying Scot Gold

Race 1 - 1 John Meredith/Tyler Andrews, 2 Melanie/Bill Dunham 3 Ellen/Quoc Tran

Race 2 – 1 John Meredith/Tyler Andrews, 2 Stephanie/Bruce Lothrop

3 Melanie/Bill Dunham

Podium – 1 John Meredith/Tyler Andrews, 2 Melanie/Bill Dunham 3 Ellen/Quoc Tran,
4 Stephanie/Bruce Lothrop

Flying Scot Silver

Race 1 – 1 Susan Meehan/Ken Gibbs, 2 Heidi/Tom Kammer, 3 Andy/Debbie Carrier

Race 2 – 1 Andy/Debbie Carrier, 2 Frank Vandal/Keegan Schimmelman, 3 Ned

Holloway/crew

Podium 1 Andy/Debbie Carrier, 2 Susan Meehan/ Ken Gibbs, 3 Heidi/Tom Kammer,

4 Frank Vandal/Keegan Schimmelman

Flying Scot Masters

Race/Podium – 1 Rob/Karen Gerlach, 2 Alan/Lyn Silverman, 3 Alice/Ed Kemp,

4 Ed Peters/Sue Case

Flying Scot Challenger

Race1 – 1 Jennifer Meehan/crew, 2 Mark/Sherri Haraway, 3 John/Cassandra Latimer
Race2 – 1 Mark/Sherri Haraway, 2 Jennifer Meehan/crew, 3 John/Cassandra Latimer
Podium - 1 Mark/Sherri Haraway, 2 Jennifer Meehan/crew, 3 John/Cassandra Latimer

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