

2008 EC12 Green Mountain Regatta – June 7 & 8 at Stowe, VT

By: Charlie Berry, Co-Race Director

Stowe Yacht Club held this event on the 3-½ acre pond behind the Commodores Inn, in Stowe, Vermont. The regatta is part of the *New England Cup Championship Series*. There were 24 competitors, with a strong contingent of eight from Connecticut.

The forecast for the weekend called for hot weather with moderate breezes predominately from the southwest, with a good chance for thunderstorms each afternoon. Saturday treated us well, with wind conditions as predicted, and no storms. Sunday's winds tended to be light, with plenty of shifts. Yes, the wind was predominately from the southwest, but it challenged the competitors and the RC with the substantial shifts for which the Commodores Pond is so well known. But, again, no thunderstorms.

We used Promotion/Relegation (“P/R”) - a long-standing tradition at Stowe Yacht Club - breaking the fleet into two heats. The first three races (six heats) were “seeding races”; the seeding for the first race was a random draw, with races two and three based on odd/even results of the prior race. After three races, the cumulative scores determined positions for the first P/R race. We ran a total of 16 heats (8 races) for the day, with the seeding races counting in the scores.

Dave Brawner, racing his “Stowe boat”, set a high standard early in the regatta with 3 bullets in his first four races. By the end of the first day, he held a strong 16-point lead over Chuck Luscomb, in second place. Dave never once slipped into B Fleet in Saturday's eight races. Al Dion, Bob Greer and Bruce Walton rounded out the top five, each just one point ahead of the other in the standings.

Jake Leo was staying in contention on Saturday, but the Stowe Gremlins once again attacked his electronics, forcing him to miss the final race of the day. That knocked him down to 7th place. Bruce Nourjian, owner of the Commodores Inn and host for the regatta, had put on a new set of sails Friday, and never tried them out until the racing began. He spent a good part of Saturday tuning his sails between races and ended the day in 10th position.

Sunday was again hot, with light winds predominately from the southwest, but they never built into a consistent breeze. By opting to not take a lunch break, the RC kept the sailors on a “forced march” until we managed to complete seven races (14 heats), which provided a throw out for the day. Dave Brawner continued his domination in these lighter airs, but by a much narrower margin. Most importantly, he again never slipped down into the B Fleet for the day. Now that's consistency!

Bruce Nourjian certainly figured out his sail tuning, moving from 10th after Saturday, up to 2nd for the regatta. Bruce Walton moved up from 5th to 3rd; Jake Leo shook off the gremlins, moving up from 7th to 4th, and Brian Jobson moved up from 8th to 5th overall. As is often the case, maintaining consistency through varying conditions is critical. These five sailors very clearly made that statement.

I'd like to particularly thank the RC team that worked with me on the regatta: George Dean (Co-RD), Bob & Suzan Letwenski, Rosemarie Fitzhugh, Carrie Nourjian and Niels Olson. A lotta work, but a

lotta fun! And, what makes working this regatta fun is the great group of sailors in the EC12 class. Here's but one example: we had several sailors new to the EC12 class racing in the regatta, and who obviously had the "beginner's jitters" and other issues of competing in a new type of boat. On a number of occasions, where experienced EC12 class sailors and the newbies "interacted" on the course, I noted an onshore discussion afterward between the two, with an explanation of what happened, how and why it could have been avoided and a friendly wrap-up to the situation. No wonder the EC12 class is so successful!

At the conclusion of the racing, a small contingent of the sailors approached the RC, asking if Dave Brawner could be group's throw out for the regatta. They would even graciously give up their own personal throw outs. After a brief meeting by the RC (5 seconds), we rejected the generous offer. You just gotta love these guys!

2008 EC12 Green Mountain Regatta Results (15 Races; 2 Throw Outs)

<u>Place</u>	<u>Skipper</u>	<u>Home Town</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	Brawner, Dave	Mt Laurel, NJ	23
2	Nourjian, Bruce	Stowe, VT	55
3	Walton, Bruce	Madison, CT	60
4	Leo, Jake	Essex, CT	64
5	Jobson, Brian	Wolcott, CT	67
6	Dion, Al	Noank, CT	68
7	West, Rick	Pacifica, CA	70
8	Luscomb, Chuck	Deep River, CT	72
9	Kendra, Jack	Hatfield, PA	72
10	Greer, Robert	Lake Park, FL	74
11	Tonks, Phil	Stowe, VT	84
12	Mueller, Gary	Burlington, WI	101
13	Larson, Robert	Deep River, CT	104
14	Amsbary, Doug	Sugar Hill, NH	111
15	Linville, Jim	Hull, MA	121
16	Hill, Rob	Lincolnshire, IL	122
17	MacLellan, Kevin	CT	125
18	Stone, Tim	Stowe, VT	135
19	O'Connell, Mark	Oakdale, CT	137
20	Shaw, Ken	Stowe, VT	142

21	Fleckenstein, Mark	Lafayette, NY	159
22	Fernald, Jerry	Cutler, ME	163
23	Gentl, Eric	Barre, VT	167
24	Mazoway, Larry	York, ME	173