



# 2008 Thunder Mug Regatta

A New England Cup Points Event

October 25th & 26th

## Regatta Report

Killingworth CT was the site for our first Thunder Mug Regatta. This was of course the last in the New England Cup's four event series. The three other events prior to this were the Nor'Easter, held in Newport RI, followed by the Green Mountain Regatta held in Stowe VT and then, Mystic Race Week held at Mystic Seaport and finally this event. In the three prior events, it really looked to many that Dave Brawner from New Jersey, with a string of firsts in each, would clinch the victory without even showing up for the last. But...lurking in his wake was Bruce Walton from Madison CT. Bruce had attended all three events as well and if he won the Thunder Mug, he would snatch the victory from Dave Brawner.

When the official entry period began, we slowly received 11 entries. Most local, with only one from out of state. Was it Dave from New Jersey? No. It was a Dave but he is from Newport RI. Dave VanCleaf was our only out of state entry for this regatta and he would be sailing his newly built #75. Now Bruce Walton had his work cut out for him. He needed to beat some pretty strong finishers to clinch the cup. In addition to Dave VanCleaf, he would be sailing against the likes of Jake Leo, Al Dion, Chuck Poindexter, Brian Jobson and Chuck Luscomb to name a few.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>

An informal practice was held at our local pond in Deep River to give entrants a chance to tune up with each other and get in some last minuet stick time. As the sun set, the temperatures dropped and many headed for Chuck Luscomb's Barn to gather for some warm food and cold beer.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup>

The weather was for moderate to strong South Easterly breezes to rule the day. As the course was set, it was not known how strong they would actually become. As the sailing got underway, it looked as though the regatta leaders were ready to take charge. Chuck Luscomb started the event off with a bullet. Al Dion would respond with a bullet in the 2<sup>nd</sup> race with Luscomb back with a bullet in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dave VanCleaf was close by finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The next three races would see the breeze begin to build into the high teens and to the top of an A rig. Some changed early and were able to gain places and move up in the standings. Bruce Walton began his charge to the front as he

strung together 6 bullets. Jake Leo and Al Dion followed with B rigs and kept Bruce working for every point. The breeze continued to build into the low 20's with gusts in excess of 25kts! Like many others, Chuck Luscomb and Dave VanCleaf did not have B rigs and Dave elected to retire while Chuck Luscomb stuck it out as the fleet dwindled from 11 to 6 boats. Some stayed to watch the carnage while others opted to head home to a warm fire. 13 races were completed on Saturday with the line up as follows:

Thunder Mug		Final standings	pts with 2
October 25-26			Throw outs
633	Bruce Walton	1	18
10	Jake Leo	2	25
74	Al Dion	3	32
92	Chuck Luscomb	4	53
75	Dave Van Cleaf	5	61
13	Kevin Maclellan	6	61
35	Chuck Poindexter	7	77
454	Rob Larson	8	90
286	Brian Jobson	9	96
84	Jack Baldwin	10	108
1	Bill Dempsy	11	131

## SATURDAY NIGHT

The Ivory Pub was our dinner host and all gathered for some Primb Rib and Dark and Stormies! Having a small fleet makes for a nice friendly gathering as sailors shared stories of their own bouts with the big breeze. Damage was minimal for many but most elected to retire early and repair their boats and get some sleep from what was a very exhausting day.

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup>

Breezes were forecast to be a bit lighter for Sunday. The front had passed and the breeze swung around 180 degrees to settle near North North East at 2-10kts. As the A rigs came out and the sailing got underway, the sharing of firsts began again. Brian Jobson started the day with a bullet followed by Dave VanCleaf and then Chuck Luscomb. VanCleaf and Luscomb traded firsts and seconds for a bit and then Bruce Walton and Al Dion stepped in for their share. After a wind shift and a course change, sailing resumed and distribution of firsts began again. Chuck Poindexter and Brian Jobson took their share with Dave VanCleaf finishing the day with the final bullet.

13 races were completed on Sunday for a total of 26. This allowed for a total of 4 throw outs. After the scores were calculated, the line up did not change all that much except that room had to be made among the trophy winners. Dave VanCleaf sailed extremely well on Sunday and managed to fight his way back from 5<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>. Great job Dave!

As noted at the start of this report, it was important that Bruce Walton finish high in the standings to snatch the New England Cup away from Veteran EC12 Skipper and National Champion, Dave Brawner. Not only did Bruce finish high in the standings, he clinched the victory by 19 points over Dave VanCleefs 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. GREAT JOB BRUCE!

After 26 races, here are the final standings.

Thunder Mug		Final standings	total points 4 throw- out
October 25- 26			
633	Bruce Walton	1	50
75	Dave Van Cleef	2	69
74	Al Dion	3	71
10	Jake Leo	4	81
92	Chuck Luscomb	5	90
35	Chuck Poindexter	6	127
286	Brian Jobson	7	138
13	Kevin Maclellan	8	142
454	Rob Larson	9	172
84	Jack Baldwin	10	224
1	Bill Dempsy	11	238

The organizers of this event would like to thank all that joined us for what will be an event to remember. Two days of great sailing in perfect New England fall weather!

A special note of thanks to Mark Benedict, our RD who wrestled with shifty winds and a starting box that would not seem to work correctly. Fran and Joyce Cichowski for calling the line and keeping score. Dave “Cappy” Capestany for running the mark/crash boat. Krista MacLellan for taking care of all the food for both days and last but not least, Susan Jobson who filled in when required and made our illustrious Commodore keep up on his food intake.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

NOTE from the Commodore.

I would like to thank all the sailors and the volunteers who made this regatta a success.

Those who are asked to write the regatta report are always left in the wake, so to speak.

We, the Dry Pants Model Yacht Club and the entire Region 1 owe a great deal to the efforts and long hours put in by Chuck Luscomb in both the EC-12 and CR-914 classes.

Without Chucks drive to get 4 regattas into Region 1, were there had only been 1-2 in the past years, there would be no New England Cup

I for one say Hip, Hip, Hurray for our own Chuck Luscomb.

Brian Jobson

Commodore Dry Pants Model Yacht Club