



by Rick West  
Photos by Tom Evens and Skip Hall

David Brawner claimed his second National Championship at Charleston. It was a contest and not established till the last day and then by only two points. While this was a big deal a dog came in second on Saturday.



The first day produced light and shifty air. At times in certain places it was drifting. Racing was from the southeast end of the lake for 2-1/2 laps and included the wing mark shown on the NCR web pages. Four

races were completed in the slow conditions with the first one not scored. The only drama of this slow day was watching the crème rise by the end of the first scoring race. The day ended with a strong A Fleet that would vie for the top 10 positions till the end of Saturday.

Friday dawned cloudy, cold and blowing stiffly out of north with gust to over 20 mph. This direction is the worst for this lake along with west. Either would continue for the rest of the regatta. B Rigs were stood and would remain into Saturday.



Friday was moving day for many. Chuck Luscomb rose from B Fleet to post two bullets, two seconds and a nine that was dropped netting 6 points in five races. This brought him up to tie for the lead with Brawner, who rose from third and Ricky Gerry. All three posted 22 points total in the regatta at the end of the day. Also moving up were Reichard Kahle and Baron Bremer. Even for a B Rig the sailing conditions were challenging and dangerous. It was a day of fine sailing skills and good judgment.

Saturday the wind switched to the west. It was still cold but clear skies came late in the morning. The race course had to be moved again and away from the control area the RC had planned and desired. Worse was decisions needed by the fleet as to what rig to use. The majority stuck with the B Rig for a while.



This day too showed the quality in championship racing over a not very good course and 30 degree shifts. It was getting sunny and warmer but still very challenging racing. David Brawner proved is metal with *two bullets and a six* after the drop for a total of 8 points over the last four races. Chuck Luscomb pressured with *two seconds and a six* after his drop to post 10 points total and two behind Brawner. Jarl Wathne, who started in B Fleet had been sailing steadily throughout the event quietly held third and nine points out of the lead.



Ricky Gerry slipped to fourth while father in law to be, Allan Perkins had his best day to secure fifth. Baron Bremer, the 2010 Champion moved along in sixth where he finished. Dave Ramos had a disappointing

Friday but posted 15 points for Saturday to finish 7<sup>th</sup>. Reichard Kahle was not having the usual good time and finished 8<sup>th</sup>. Joe Walter who started in B Fleet and having only raced three events since ending his sabbatical was solid in 9<sup>th</sup>. Bob Greer came storming back from a bad Friday to round out the top 10.



The Dog. Some time around noon Saturday during a lull in racing, a Black Labrador spied the 24" windward mark we called Big Red. A big roar of cheer came from the fleet as the Lab nosed the mark then reached under for the line to the anchor and dragged it all to the beach on Dog Island. Baron Bremer raced across to lake in the inflatable boat to retrieve it. Now think about this; here is Baron, who is deaf greeting people offering their apologies. While doing this he is trying to get the mark from a dog that did not want to give it up. Baron moved the mark back to its spot and started back to the control area. The dog took off after the mark again. Signaled from our shore he raced back to get the mark. This time Baron protected the mark from the persistent dog by beating the paddle on the inflated tube till the the sound and urging of the owner, the dog gave up. For a fleet in close competition at a national event, this was a welcome respite. Too funny.

Notable: Rich and Doreen Matt from Chicago showed up at the event quietly to observe. Rich is AMYA #4 and one of the founders. Moreover, He was third at the first EC12 Nationals held in Memphis in August of 1971, 40 years ago. They were our guests at the banquet where he can be seen in photos presenting the trophies.

The thanks to the staff: Bob and Dee Dudinsky for his hard work on Wednesday measuring and Dee who made monogrammed towels for all entrants. Both assisted the fleet each day. RO Bud Cassidy, who came from Naples to walk with the fleet every heat as a monitor and assistant to the scorer with starting and finishing duties. Rules judge Tom Germer was the loneliest with very little to due but assist others. The hardest working guy was Skip Allen as scorer, starter and calling the finish. His pre event preparations were unmatched in organization and anticipation. The day was finished after racing in minutes. RO Tom Phillips was the rock of the RC throughout the months and walked with the fleet every heat as a monitor. Master craftsman Fred Maurer of State College PA prepared the magnificent trophies for the top six. Skip Hall from New Jersey took about 2000 photos for the class along with Tom Evens who became noticed at the 2009 NCR for his great action images. Reichard Kahle and Bill Coates from the local club provided the ground assistance and arrangements before and during the event.

The class hosted the traditional Saturday evening banquet where I talked to long recognizing all who participated. Then the next day all scattered to far destinations like California, Ontario Canada, the Isle of Wight in the UK, Naples Florida, Essex Junction VT and places between till St. Augustine next year.

Further detail information: [http://www.ec12.org/Regattas/2011/2011Nats\\_Results.htm](http://www.ec12.org/Regattas/2011/2011Nats_Results.htm)