

Swedish Team Wins 2005 BoatU.S. Santa Maria Cup



Photo by Walter Cooper

Swedish skipper Marie Björling was declared champion of the 15th annual BoatU.S. Santa Maria Cup women's match racing regatta, hosted by Eastport Yacht Club, after dying winds on the final day of racing forced the cancellation of both the semifinals and final races. The final results of the Grade 1 event in Annapolis, MD, June 1-4 were based on the best records compiled during the double round-robin series of the regatta with each team racing 18 races over three days.

Second place honors went to Claire Leroy of France, with Paula Lewin of Bermuda taking third. The BoatU.S. Santa Maria Cup has become a major international event on the women's matching racing circuit, drawing teams from all over the world.

Things Are Just Ducky



TowBoatU.S. Lake of the Ozarks

The Missouri State Water Patrol is testing new, more affordable methods to aid in searching for wayward boaters on the Lake of the Ozarks. Officer Dustin Crafton is shown testing the new experimental "MALLARDS" (Missouri Area Lakes Low Altitude Recon Duck Squad), preparing for take-off from Crafton's patrol boat flight deck. All kidding aside, the ducks decided to join the patrol boat as it stood by a disabled boater awaiting the arrival of TowBoatU.S. Lake of the Ozarks. The tower arrived on scene and assisted, camera in hand.

Take a Shark to Bermuda

A Sea Scout crew from Pennsylvania sailing in the Marion-Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race in June got a shock when a shark latched on to their boat's auxiliary battery charger.

"When underway we tow a propeller on a 100-foot line to spin an alternator to generate some free electricity," reports George Kain, the scouts' adult leader and skipper for the race. "One of the boys noticed that the line had stopped rotating, so he started to pull it in hand over hand when suddenly it started swimming back and forth. Next thing he knew, a large black dorsal fin broke the surface and, lo and behold, a shark was trying to chomp down on the propeller. He let the line go back in the water in a hurry."

Kain says the crew, ages 17 to 20, also saw several pods of dolphins, Portuguese Man of War jellyfish, another suspicious dorsal fin and a whale.

This was the second successful Bermuda Ocean Race for Sea Scout Ship 25 of York, PA, which Kain calls "the land-locked sailing capital of southeastern Pennsylvania." In all, they sailed 2,050 nautical miles, visiting two countries and four states in 25 days aboard Kain's Mason 43 ketch, *Kuan Yin*. And the race? They finished last in a class of 14 boats. "But ahead of the four that did not finish," Kain notes.



Sea Scout Drew Brenneman, 17, puts a reef in *Kuan Yin's* mainsail in 30-knot winds during this year's Bermuda Race.

U.S. Sailing Rescue Medal Awarded

"Man overboard" are the two most dreaded words in boating and when two BoatU.S. members heard the call during a race in January in the cold Pacific waters, they swung into quick action. For their efforts, the U.S. Sailing Association presented its Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to BoatU.S. members John and Joanne DeMeyer and the crew of the *Balder*, an Ericson 38-200 owned by the DeMeyers.

During the race, Tom Droescher, working as the spinnaker trimmer, was swept overboard during a jibe and landed on his back in the 45-degree waters of Puget Sound. Unconscious and not wearing a life jacket, Droescher luckily remained on the surface, buoyed by air in between layers of clothing and his foul weather gear.

The DeMeyers and their crew, Lynn Price, Dwight Young, Dan Briscoe and Steve Klockow, worked quickly to return to Droescher's aide, dousing the spinnaker and clearing lines so he could be brought to the stern. By then he had regained consciousness and could help the crew as they hauled him from the water just minutes after falling overboard. He suffered bruising to his neck, jaw and over one eye.

The crew received the medal during the South Sound Sailing Society Annual Meeting in Olympia, WA.

Saint Izaak, Pray For Me

Are anglers ready for their own patron saint? A preacher in Alabama thinks so. Rev. Jeremy Lucas is petitioning the Episcopal Church to have Izaak Walton named a saint. Walton, of course, wrote the most famous fishing how-to book of all time, *The Compleat Angler*, in 1653. Lucas' reasoning is sound: "Walton used fishing as a wonderful metaphor for the spiritual life," Lucas told a reporter. "He brings us hope that there are places we can go where our time is not quantified in terms of money."

A national committee of the church will take up the petition in 2006. ■

