

2011 Blue Chip Regatta

The 2011 C Blue Chip Regatta was held in near perfect sailing conditions. The cool temperature and the fickle fall breezes made sure that the sailor's had to really pay attention all day long. It was up and down 10-15 steady with puffs to 20, left and right shifts from the South and Southeast. It made for a difficult sail and race course setup. Sandy Sundberg and crew did a phenomenal job setting courses in the wind and managed to run four races on Saturday. It was tough racing, you didn't sit still for long in any of the races.

Our mystery guest Bill Brangiforte from Weymouth Massachusetts, who was set up in an unfamiliar boat, in unfamiliar waters against unknown skippers. Bill is the current Sunfish national champion and active in other one design classes as well, and represented well. He embodied the spirit and enthusiasm for sailing that you hope for in a mystery guest. We were very fortunate to spend the weekend with him.

The early excitement in the day was for Kurt Mihelich OO-7. His trailer blew a bearing while traveling, and he had to call in reinforcements to switch to a different trailer and head down to Pistakee. I have never seen a boat assembled and literally 'flown' out to the course by a power boat. Who knew that a C – Boat could be flown like a kite behind a boat? Most impressively, he made it in time for the first start. Great job Kurt.

Saturday ended with very tightly packed fleet, with greatly varied finishes for most of the fleet with a lead pack of 3 boats pulling away. The vanguard group was led by the reigning Blue Chip Champion Ed Eckert A-136 followed closely by Kent Haeger B-12 and his brother Tom Eckert A-36. With four races out of a five race regatta in the book, it was reasonable to predict that Ed would repeat. But stranger things have occurred... The fleet was tightly packed behind him.

Sunday opened with predictions of heavier winds, 15-20 out of the Southeast, bringing in rain and occasional thunder. The boats got out quickly and assembled, some thirds were taken in anticipation. The winds never showed up, remaining light and out of the SouthEast. Thirds were removed and the sailing progressed.

The results were similar from Saturday in the light breeze with Paul Reilly A-14 in first place, followed by Ed Eckert A-136. Ed sailed a great regatta and put in very consistent finishes, in very inconsistent winds. Great job to Ed!

1. A-136 Ed Eckert, Matt Schmidt & Becca Schmidt
2. B-12 Kent Haeger & Mike Greeson
3. A-36 Tom Eckert & Dave Schmidt
4. OO-824 Lou Morgan & David Harris
5. A -14 Paul Reilly & Aaron Mann