

2009 COCONUT GROVE ANNUAL (ONE DESIGN)

DAY ONE: (THE INCREDIBLE HULKOWITZ)

The 2009 Coconut Grove Annual (for One Design) was held this past weekend. Seven Etchells turned up for racing on both Saturday and Sunday. While the weather was beautiful, the wind was light and tricky. After a lengthy delay, the first race got underway in a very light south easterly. Sharon Bivans-Bourke showed that she was back in black with a well deserved bullet in the 1st race. Dr. Steve and his top notch Jag crew finished 2nd followed by John Greven who hit the boat end of the line at full speed at the start and didn't slow down until after the first race. Since the race was only once around, the finish was very tight with only a few feet separating third from seventh. It should be noted that Dr. Steve collided with a Snipe at the start of the first race. Things got ugly, and violence was threatened, but Dr. Steve settled the matter when he ripped off his shirt and gave the mucho machismo snipe dude a true 1970's incredible hulk flex and the snipe dude wisely backed off. Very lucky for Senior Machismo.

The rest of the day proved tricky, but showed that the fleet continued to improve. Dr. Steve remained consistent with finishes of 2,1,2. 1055 clawed back from obscurity with a 3, 1, and Jeff Nehms and Jonah Pruitt III, both had a pretty good day with top three finishes. At the end of day one, 1239 had a substantial lead over 1055 who was just a few points ahead of the rest of the pack.

Day 2: NO WORM FOR THE EARLY BIRD

Sunday saw slightly better breeze. The race committee had mercy on several Etchells sailors who were very tardy for the 10:30 start (allegedly still enjoying early morning brunch at damn near 10:00 O'Clock) and postponed until they all arrived, well fed. The first race saw a pack of 5 boats fight for the right, while 1239 and 1307 banged left. The left had the last laugh as 1239 and 1307 rounded the first mark well ahead of the rest of the pack. 1055 crept back in, and went as low as you could go on the 2nd run almost pulling off the upset, but Dr. Steve sealed the regatta with a well deserved bullet. 1055 nipped 1307, and a real battle was on for 3rd place in the last race.

The final race was all about pressure and 1371 seemed to find it. 1202 and 1371 sailed really good beats and pretty good runs to lead the rest of the pack across the line. With the win, 1371 took the tie breaker from 1202 for third place. It was both nice and a bit sobering to see such tight racing. The award for best improvement could have gone to 1094, 808, or 1202, but Jonah wins it by tying for third overall and having a 2nd and 3rd place finish. Hopefully, Jonah has signed this crew to a long term contract.

Final results:

- 1) 1239 (Dr. Steve, Brad Nichol, Eric Rodriguez)
- 2) 1055 (Lanza, Banks, Chau)
- 3) 1371 (Tom Piper, Paige Brooks, Scott Gearing)
- 4) 1202 (Jonah, Deborah and Team Quantum)

Thanks to all who came out. We hope to see a better turn out at The Coral Reef Annual.

Lanza

2009 SUN BURN REGATTA RECAP (FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY)

This past Sunday, Biscayne Bay Yacht Club held its One Design Annual Regatta affectionately known as THE SUNBURN REGATTA. The weekend was a tough one on the local Etchells sailors for a number of reasons. With the Jaguar Series having wound down and the 3rd annual Coral Reef Cup in the books, sailing on Biscayne Bay is slowly slipping into the dog days of summer. Tough economic times, broken masts and the Coral Reef Commodore's Ball also ran interference for what was a truly glorious day of sailing. (Jerry Bourke's Birthday party may have affected a few sailors as well). The day began with a number of very hung-over sailors slithering along the docks looking out at the 20 knot Easterly and hoping it would "die down a bit". Dr. Horowitz sailing with Tom Piper, P.C. Brian Fink sailing with Bill Mauk, and new Coral Reef Fleet Captain Henry Chau sailing on 1055, were all allegedly seen partying late into Saturday night / Sunday morning, while another Etchells skipper was reportedly caught doing "the worm" to "Louie - Louie", in front of 200 hundred stunned guests. It was later explained that he was honoring the memory the late Louis Piana having won the Contessa Cup the last two years. In any event, the advantage for Sunday was seemingly in favor of those more serious teams that went to bed early....

The first race was started on time in a solid 18 knots with puffs a bit higher. 928 (Bill Mauk) and 1055 (Lanza) worked the left side and rounded the first mark in tight proximity. 1372 (Scott Piper), 1371(Tom Piper) and 1307 (Jeff Nehms) rounded right behind and were in a tight battle for third. 1055 extended a bit on the run and 1372 and 928 rounded the leeward mark overlapped in a tight battle for 2nd. 1055 pulled away to a comfortable lead on the last beat and won the first race. 1372 won a tight second place with 928 finishing 3rd. The second race again saw a puffy and oscillating breeze and the competition proved a bit tighter. 1055 won race number 2 followed by 1372 with (1307) Jeff Nehms in third. With 2 firsts and 2 seconds respectively, 1055 and 1372 would have been wise to just lay back and play it safe on the last race. Of course, 1055 and 1372 were both over early at the start of the 3rd race and put themselves in the position of having to battle back against a competitive fleet in a pretty steady breeze. 928 rounded the weather mark with a pretty good lead, 1372 had a great beat, after being over early, and rounded 2nd followed closely by 1307, 1055 and 1371. 1372 rounded just ahead of 928 and 1055 at the leeward mark. 1372 hit the first two right-sided shifts and extended their lead nicely. 928 banged the right corner and got crushed, (check out www.bangthecorner.com/watchoutforturkeypoint/tacknow) while 1307 and 1055 worked the shifts up the middle trying to catch 1372 off guard, to no avail. 1372 won the last race comfortably, followed by 1055 and 1307. Overall it was a great day of racing! Lots of wind, great competition and a wonderful job by Ken Batzer and his race committee on getting off 3 solid races and getting us back in time for the awards party. As always, thanks to my crew Tim and Henry, they did a great job keeping me medicated.

Final results:

- 1) 1055 (Chris Lanza, Tim Banks, Henry Chau)
- 2) 1372 (Scott Piper, Stuart DeLisser, Eric Rodriguez)
- 3) 1307 (Jeff Nehms, Ezra Culver, Fred Chandler)
- 4) 928
- 5) 1371
- 6) 1202

FN. The worm is an excellent dance for various occasions. It's great for showing off when people are dancing. Its great for looking like an idiot (in a respectable way). Use the worm at your discretion. (Wikipedia) See you all out there soon!

LANZA