

Nineteen skippers from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and California braved both the Atlanta traffic and possibility of no wind at the 2007 edition of the *Gone With the Wind* Regatta in Lawrenceville, GA. The festivities began Friday night when Skip and Linda Allen hosted a pre regatta cook-out that included munchies, drinks and the regulars of any cook-out, hot dogs, hamburgers and brats. Fortunately some of the drinks were able to relieve some of the stress caused by Skip when his directions to the party inadvertently sent people eastbound and westbound when they should have gone in the opposite directions. (Sorry about that to the Wubbe's and the McInerney's.) The night started to conclude with some great help from a number of the skippers and their wives bringing the cook-out supplies back to Skip and Linda's house. That in turn led to everyone present to swing a ring on a string to a hook on a wall. (A game hanging from Skip's back porch.) John Bottensek and Bob Greer are great sailors. However, both of them are lousy ring swingers. Kelly Greer put Bob to shame in about five tries. Reichard Kahle also won \$10 from Bob. John, in his normal quiet self, kept trying and finally was able to connect the ring to the hook. It was a good time by all Friday night and soon all departed to rest for Saturday's racing activities.

Saturday was a partly cloudy day in Atlanta with variable winds. This regatta was the Region 3 Championships and was run under the Promotion/Relegation system. The first three qualifying races were sailed on a north/south course and the final qualifying heat was moved to an east/west course. At the conclusion of the qualifying heats, positions 1 through 7 were separated by only 4 points. Reichard Kahle had the lead going into round 1 of the event. As the racing continued during the day, the winds began to build as storms were planned for the evening. During round 8, both Dick Gerry and Bob Szczepanski experienced crucial breakdowns when both of their jibs were ripped. Dick was done for the day, but Bob continued on with a big hole in his jib. Skip had racing on his mind and forced one fleet after another into the water with less than two minutes between heats. Not allowing 5 minute holds resulted in a few boats being late to the starting line and in turn having poor finishes. By the end of Saturday's racing, Joe Walter had taken the lead from Reichard and led him by 9 points. Rick West followed Reichard followed by Bob Greer, Bob Dudinsky, Jack Wubbe and John Bottensek.

Sunday proved to be what we feared on Saturday. Temperatures at the sailing venue were in the low 50's with winds gusting to 22 mph. Throw in overcast skies and light mist to rain and we had miserable weather. Four skippers chose not to sail on Sunday so "B" fleet was reduced to 7 sailors. As "B" fleet was coming out of the water, our only real scare of the week-end came when "A" fleet was entering the water and our EC12 hull manufacturer from Treasure Island, FL decided to slide across Georgia's red clay. Bob hit the deck on his back and everything came to a screeching stop. After a few moments of tension and Dr. Bob's inspection, Bob decided to roll over and get up. To all of our amazement, his only comment was, "Dee, get me a cigarette and some drugs." I guess Bob came to race too and he was back in the water and sailing within 15 minutes. (Bob you are one tough dude!) When the racing resumed the winds had continued to build. Some boats converted to "B" rigs while others chose to stay with "A's" because of lulls. As each round began, another boat would withdraw because of breakdowns or weather discomfort. At round 15, both fleets were

merged as one. As noon approached, the final race, round 16 was completed which allowed for two drops for each skipper.

In total, 36 races were completed over the two and a half lap course.

At the conclusion of the regatta, Reichard Kahle beat Joe Walter by one point. Get this one. Both had final scores of 66 points. Joe had drops of 8 points and 8 points. Reichard had a drop of 8 points and another drop of9 points. Sorry Joe! Congrats Reichard!

My thanks go to everyone who attended the regatta. After the disappointment of last year, I wasn't sure if anyone would ever come to Atlanta again. When you look at the mileage of the people who traveled here, the total one way equals 5,800 miles. (Rick, this includes your travel to and from both airports.) I also want to thank the wonderful spouses who helped Linda and me Friday night. Mary Ellen, Kelli, Linda Angel, Betty and Dee. You were all so kind.

Both Linda and I hope you guys had as much fun attending as we did hosting the event.

Here are the final results.

1. Reichard Kahle	49
2. Joe Walter	50
3. Rick West	54
4. John Bottensek	62
5. Gerry Cobley	74
6. Jack Wubbe	77
7. Bob Dudinsky	83
8. Bob Greer	86
9. Scott Vernon	125
10. Dick Gerry	166
11. Tom Germer	171
12. Tom Phillips	176
13. Jack Shepard	188
14. Dennis McInerney	197
15. Frank Angel	203
16. Doug Hale	206
17. Bob Szczepanski	212
18. Winston Mathews	220
19. David Mobbs	239