

## 2011 Wisteria Cup Regatta

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Wisteria Cup Regatta, hosted by the Charleston Model Yacht Club, had 19 entries this year which was more than expected considering that most of the skippers were planning on returning just three weeks later for the National's. It was a good chance to get warmed up for the big event.

The weather could not have been better with plenty of sunshine and a high around 80 degrees both days. Saturday gave us westerly winds blowing about 5 to 10 with higher gusts. Joe Walter and Reichard Kahle (later withdrew to help run the regatta) got off to a good start in the morning when the breeze was light but after lunch when the wind came up, Ricky Gerry started throwing down the bullets scoring seven first place finishes in the last ten races of the day. Alan Perkins was always right there scoring mostly top three finishes and at the end of the day, after two throw outs, was only one point out of the lead behind Ricky. Joe was in third with Baron Bremer just behind followed by Rick West in fifth place.

Then it was off to Gilligan's Steamer and Raw Bar for our dinner party in a private room. The one time that I did not follow up and check on our reservation a few days ahead, guess what? Somehow they had scheduled us for Sunday but no worries, the room was still available and we had the best service ever. Bed time came early after a long day.

Sunday's wind forecast was not as good but it turned out to be a better day than Saturday. The wind speed was the same out of the opposite direction and it ended up coming straight down the shoreline. Ricky was very stressed as his heart was about to beat out of his chest but he managed to hold on with some consistent performance. Baron Bremer, the current National Champion, won the day moving himself up from fourth to Second with three first place finishes and no worse than a fourth. Alan Perkins slipped to third overall after a few unfortunate mark roundings and Rick West stayed in fifth to round out the top five.

A big thank you to Ron Lacroix for stepping up as the RD for the regatta and to Pauline Lacroix and Becky Perkins for recording the scores. Also, a thank you to Bill Coates for his usual hand crafted half hull trophies which have been standard issue for this event since near the beginning. Bill was also the winner of the Wisteria Cup Trophy, which is now given to the last place skipper who completes all of the races and is good for a free entry to next years event. The 2012 Wisteria Cup will be the Region 3a Championship so we hope everyone will return.

Reichard Kahle Jr.