

## THE LEO BLOG - Results and a Narrative from the Regatta

**Weekapaug Yacht Club, August 9, 2008:** Beetle Cat sailors sailed in moderate (10-15 knot) winds on the first day of the 2008 New England Beetle Cat Boat Association (NEBCBA) annual Leo Telesmanick Championship Regatta on Quonochontaug Pond today.

Bright, sunny skies greeted sailors for the first race in light air (1-5 knots) from the North. Five boats made the starting line on which the pin end was slightly favored and those boats led the entire race, with few lead changes. Local Weekapaug Yacht Club (WYC) skipper Bill Boll went to left side of the course and sailed to the lay line of the windward mark, rounded first, and stayed in first place for the entire race. All of the five top finishers rounded the right gate of the leeward mark. The top five finishers were Bill Boll, Karen Renzulli, Geri Abdoo, Ray Cox, and Steve Glovinsky – all but Renzulli were WYC skippers.

For the second race, the winds picked up and came from the South West at 10-15 knots. At the start approximately half of the fleet went left and the other half went right. Alessandro Zezza went right, rounded the windward mark in first, and stayed there as the winds picked up and were the strongest of the day. Top five finishers were Alessandro Zezza, Bill Boll, Ray Cox, Dan Mendelsohn, and Charlie York of Beetle, Inc.

The winds continued to come from the South West at blew 10-12 knots for the third race. The left side of the course was favored and Karen Renzulli got off to an excellent start, went left, crossed the fleet, rounded the first mark ahead and stayed in first the rest of the race. There were numerous place changes in the third race, and there was one protest during the race. The final top five finishers were Karen Renzulli, Alessandro Zezza, Ray Cox, Tom Kligerman, and Bill Lester. Bill Boll finished sixth, which might well be his throw-out race if there are three races on Sunday.

For the fourth race, the winds stayed steady at 10-12 knots from the South West and the first four boats off the starting line covered the fleet, went to the right gate, and stayed in their relative positions even as the wind moderated on the final beat. The top five finishers were Alessandro Zezza, Bill Boll, Bill Lester, Karen Renzulli, and Ray Cox.

The South West 10-12 winds held up for the fifth and final race of the day. Bill Boll went left toward the shore once again and rounded the windward mark in first and stayed there for the rest of the race. Alessandro Zezza tried the right side, and although he got clear air and was sailing fast, he could not catch Bill Boll. The right gate was once again favored. The top five finishers were Bill Boll, Alessandro Zezza, Bill Lester, Charlie York, and Karen Renzulli.

For the day, the top five were Bill Boll with 12 points, Alessandro Zezza with 13, Karen Renzulli with 18, Ray Cox with 22, and Bill Lester with 36.

**Weekapaug Yacht Club, August 10, 2008.** On the second day of the Leo Telesmanick Championship Regatta, 26 boats were towed out to the starting area in light air.

The first race of the day and the sixth in the two-day series began at 10:10 A.M. in South South West 1-5 knot winds. All the Weekapaug local sailors went left, as usual, but the key to the race was to go right in the light air. Several boats changed being in the lead as there was major confusion among the first seven boats at the reaching mark – several leaders mistook a small mark for a mark of the course and sailed ten boat lengths too far before discovering their error. A crash boat made sure the fleet went to the next mark properly, and the usual suspects lead the fleet again. The top five finishers were Charlie York, Karen Renzulli, Bill Boll, Alessandro Zezza, and Dave Bryant.

The next race was sailed, once again, in light winds of 5-8 knots. As opposed to the first race of the day, in the seventh race of the regatta the left side was once again favored and those boats that got off the line well at the pin end and went left lead all the way. The top five finishers were Bill Lester, Julia Bradford, Charlie York, Tom Kligerman, and Alessandro Zezza.

In the eighth race winds were 5-8 knots, but the left not the right side were favored. Boats that got off the line in the first group did well, but the key to the race was tacking on the wind shifts as Bill Boll did, and he led all the way. Even though Karen Renzulli had to turnaround and retrieve Hadley the dog, that had fallen overboard, she managed to come in third. The top five finishers were Bill Boll, Ray Cox, Karen Renzulli, Bill Lester, and Tom Kligerman.

The ninth and final race of the championship featured a longer course than the first three races as winds picked up to 6-10 knots. But once again, those boats that were on the front row of the starting line and generally went left led the pack. The top five finishers were Karen Renzulli, Alessandro Zezza, Charlie York, Ray Cox, Bill Lester.

Overall, the 2008 Leo Telesmanick Championship was a family affair with husbands and wives, fathers and daughters, and a grandfather and grandson sailing together. Charlie York, Chairman of NEBCBA indicated that this year's regatta was extremely well run – "best in decades," he said. He gave high praise to the management of the races, which were run by Ted and Richard Sherman and Dwight Ellis.

This year's Leo also featured several past champions in a variety of classes. Overall winner Bill Boll won the Mighty Mites national championship in 1966 when he was 11. Karen Renzulli and Tim Fallon were national champions in the 420s in New Zealand and in the Vanguard 15 national championship. Ray Cox, who sailed with his eight-year-old grandson, Teddy Best, won the junior division of the Leo Telesmanick in 1957 and 1958.

The trophy winners were:

**Overall:** Bill Boll, Julia Boll crew (23 points) – 1<sup>st</sup>; Karen Renzulli, Tim Fallon and Hadley the dog crew (24 points)- 2<sup>nd</sup>; Allesandro Zezza, Chris Hall crew (24 points)-3<sup>rd</sup>. Second place decided by best throw-out race finish.

**Men:** Alessandro Zezza, Chris Hall crew – 3<sup>rd</sup> overall; Charlie York, Emma York crew – 6<sup>th</sup> overall; Dave Bryant, Devon Murphy, crew, 8<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Women:** Karen Renzulli, Tim Fallon and Hadley the dog crew- 2<sup>nd</sup> overall; Julia Bradford, Charlie Warner crew - 11<sup>th</sup> overall, Nonie Price, Duff Price crew-14<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Old Salts (50-59):** Bill Boll, Julia Boll crew – 1<sup>st</sup> overall; Tom Kligerman, Katherine Kligerman crew – 7<sup>th</sup> overall, Bill Adams, Katherine and Libby Adams crew – 9<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Ancient Mariners (60+):** Ray Cox, Teddy Best crew- 4<sup>th</sup> overall; Bill Lester, Ann Earle and Sue Lester crew – 5<sup>th</sup> overall; Chris Pile, Ellen Pile crew – 17<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Junior (Under 18):** Heather Wakeman, Scott Wakeman crew- 13<sup>th</sup> overall.

Overall winner Bill Boll, who won the WYC 2008 July series, when asked about his first-place finish, modestly said, "I can't believe it." Boll also praised the Race Committee and the management of the races. He felt he was fortunate to have won by only one point over two excellent competitors. He said, "I did well in heavier air, but in light air, I just tried to hang in."

The 2008 Leo Telesmanick was blessed with almost perfect weather and wind conditions, good, fair sailing (there were no protests), and good-natured sportsmanship. As NEBCBA Chairman Charlie York said, "the welcome was warm, the food delicious, the race management excellent, and the organization of the boat launching the best ever."