

**Bedlam on the Bay  
Mallets Bay Boat Club  
August 26-27, 2017**



The inaugural Bedlam on the Bay regatta hosted by Mallets Bay Boat Club is the brainchild of Toby Doyle, Al Baker and Bob Wynkoop. The MC class in the northeast is growing and the opportunity to add an event to an open date on the calendar, at a new venue, combined with the Shark Catamaran National Championship was too good to pass up. Mallets Bay is situated on the east side of Lake Champlain just north of Burlington, Vermont. The forecast offered up an ideal weather forecast and 16 skippers were ready to test their skill at this gorgeous location.

The fleet consisted of much of Fleet 99 (Petipaug Sailing Club, CT) with those not able to attend offering loaner boats. Some of the guest skippers included long time MC sailor and east coast transplant, Peter Toumanoff, Boston youngster, Nathan Kotz via Clear Lake, Iowa, Dave Helmick on sabbatical from Lake Eustis, FL and Zack Clayton coming out of pseudo retirement. The Canadian contingent came south with three (Will, Andre and Dana), Jordan Murphy from New Jersey and local favorite and regatta host Al Baker.

The local RC team certainly had a pulse of the local weather system and even though the water was clear as glass, they were confident that racing would occur on day 1. After a short land postponement, the RC sent the fleet out in a light northerly thermal. As the fleet reached the sailing area, it was clear that the breeze was not ready for racing. The fleet sailed through the pinch and got a wonderful view of outer Mallets Bay (suitable for National Championship level racing for all scow classes). The outer bay refused to fill, but a nice 6-10mph breeze filled the lower bay and the course was set.

The day was certain to be exciting as the fleet was watching 20-30 degree shifts pulse through the course. **Race 1** had a square first beat and then the thermal was overpowered by true breeze causing a huge right hand shift. The RC reacted quickly with a mark change to the right, but alas the joy of multiple fleets on the course, an anchor line caught in a prop and some course confusion had the RC shorten the course. The fleet was muddled on who finished where and who managed to finish legally. The RC did the best they could to unscramble the fleet and Zack came out on top of race one, with Keith

Kraner 2<sup>nd</sup> (although I would be happy to have Keith take the bullet as he sailed a great race) and Chris Moore, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

With the breeze a bit more settled and the course squared up, the fleet was off for **race 2**. Again Zack jumped to the lead with the help of a persistent right hander and some increased velocity. Al Baker showed he was a quick learner with a deuce in this one followed by Dana Nelson, Peter Toumanoff and Bob "Papa Smurf" Wynkoop (just check out the Gus facebook page for his blue sail) rounding out the top 5.

Race three had the best velocity of the day (8-12) with a bit higher puffs. What had been a predominately right hand day, threw a curveball in for the first beat of race three. Nathan Kotz led the way with Bob Wynkoop and Dave Helmick on his heels. Reality returned after the first beat and the stronger right hander returned for the rest of the race. Bob split with the lead pack up the short final beat and narrowly missed out on the win with Dave Helmick in 3<sup>rd</sup>, Zack rallied from the back to finish 4<sup>th</sup> and Chuck Poindexter had his best race of the series finishing 5<sup>th</sup>. The fleet hit the shore and enjoyed the setting sun, free beer and light appetizers before moving onto evening festivities.

Day 2 greeted the fleet exactly as Day 1, flat as a pancake, with bright sun. The RC ensured the fleet that there would be breeze again. The Shark fleet had all day to race. The MC fleet was under a bit more stress with everyone needing to get home for the upcoming week. Some of the fleet punted and pulled for home. The remainder of the fleet headed out in a light 4-6mph thermal.

**Race 4** was the lightest of the series, but enough to be off the low side. Smaller, but just as difficult shifts were in play. Zack managed to navigate the first beat just well enough to lead at the top mark followed by Will Hendershot and the rest of the smaller, but tightly grouped fleet. Will took the lead on the first run and never gave it back, leading the fleet to the finish followed by Zack, Al, Dana and Chuck. The breeze built just a tad for the final race of the day and the swing of the breeze grew a bit as well. Will and Al seemed to have a good handle on race 5 until the second beat where Nathan picked the perfect layline as a big right hand shift hit the course and left the rest of the leaders overboard. Nathan held off the gaggle for the win (note when beer is involved the young guys can win races – he also won race 3 on Saturday) followed by Al, Will, Zack and Stephen Dix.

The fleet was full of worry on Sunday as fellow fleet 99 skipper Christopher Moore had a bit of a health scare on Sunday morning. Great work by Bob Wynkoop and Vic Hoehnebart along with the Grand Isle Rescue Squad and everyone at UVM Medical took great care of Chris and we are happy to report that their quick actions allowed for Chris to be discharged early this week with fellow Fleet 99 member Burke Wasserman driving up to Vermont, just after landing from Florida and he is back home safe and sound in CT recovering with his family and friends. Expect to see him on the water in the near future. This guy will do anything to earn a pair of sailing shorts! (Inside joke from the author).

Mallets Bay is a bucket list place to visit. Great shopping, food, views, water, hiking, sailing, you name it, the area has it. Get your calendar clear for 2018 and find your way to the NE to take part in some great sailing, a good time and a wonderful view!

