

SLED Ocean Regatta

Carolina Yacht Club - Wrightsville Beach, NC

September 21-22, 2019

Place	Skipper	Crew	Crew	SAIL NUMBER	BOAT NAME	CLUB/ORG	TOTAL	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5
1	Pierce Barden	Jay Smith	Jake Usher	USA 15548	None	CYC-NC	10	1	3	1	3	2
2	John Sawyer	Becky Sawyer	Dan Morton	USA 15605	None	CYC NC	15	3	6	4	1	1
3	Bob Cowen	Ben Bowie	Scott/Maria Pfeffer	USA 14682	None	CYC NC	16	2	2	2	6	4
4	Elaine Parshall	Ryan Hargrave	Ryan Smoker	USA 14728	None	CSC	28	6	4	3	2	OCS - 13
5	Darby Reddaway	Wheeler Sutton	Hannah Gersch	USA 15387	None	LLSC	29	8	1	6	9	5
6	Ezra Zankel	Paul Zankel	Jess Elliott	USA 14684	Rum Front	CHYC	32	7	8	9	5	3
7	David Chervenik	Bob Astrove	Mac Humphrey	USA 15156	White Lightning	CYC	35	4	9	8	8	6
8	Ron Medlin	Rick Scott	Alize Proisy	USA 15381	Le Terrible	CYC-NC	35	5	10	5	7	8
9	William Jones	Briggs Monteith	Chip Crawford	USA 14688	None	YIYC	41	9	5	7	10	10
10	Richard Waldkirch	Katie Sherwood	David Powell	USA 14695	None	Cyc	50	DNC - 13	DNC - 13	DNC - 13	4	7
11	Steve Johnston	Nick Omirly	Joe Lutz	USA 15236	None	CYC	53	10	7	10	DNC - 13	DNC - 13
12	Jeff Turner	Patrick Murphy	Taylor Hammeke /Adam Tresenrider	USA 15139	None	CYC	53	11	11	11	11	9

CYC-NC sailors took the top three positions in last week-end's regatta held at their beautiful club on the beach, also home to the 2021 Lightning World Championships. If you've never sailed there before, it is well worth the trip, providing conditions that you never normally see. The wind speeds were 5 - 10 knots, but the ocean swell of about 2 1/2 feet made things very interesting, with the apparent wind seeming to oscillate 45 - 90 degrees sometimes, which made both upwind and downwind sailing quite different from what we're used to.

On Saturday, we bobbed around for about an hour, waiting for the sea breeze to overcome the northeasterly. Our PRO, Chip Till, did a great job of keeping us informed of his intentions, and patiently waited until we had a solid 5 - 7 knots of breeze before he attempted a start. He liked short lines, so even though we only had 12 boats, every start was crowded, and it seemed that someone was almost always over. The legs were about 1/2 mile, and the first boat crossed the finish line after about 50 minutes. Our team couldn't get it right on the upwind legs, and often tacked on what we thought were headers, which turned out just to be apparent wind shifts due to swell. Pierce Barden's team got out in front on the first weather leg and stayed there, handily winning it, followed by two other locals, Bob Cowen in 2nd, and John Sawyer in 3rd. In the 2nd race, we went with Pierce and John Sawyer out to the left, which did not work out well, while Darby Reddaway's team established a nice lead by going right on the first leg. The sea breeze seemed to be helping over on the right. They went on to win their first race of the season, again followed by Bob in 2nd, and Pierce in 3rd. His team won the 3rd race, but it was a bit closer, again with Bob in 2nd, and our team in 3rd. At the end of the day, it was Pierce with 5, Bob with 6, and Parshall and Sawyer in a tie for 3rd with 13. After a long sail in, we were rewarded with cold drinks on the porch overlooking the beach (my favorite part of being at Wrightsville), and plenty of fajitas for dinner.

Sunday's forecast was for much of the same, but the wind was even lighter, and everyone was towed out, again to bob around for about an hour. This time though, Chip's patience paid off, and we got to sail 2 races in a steady breeze of about 7 - 10 knots. Racing was much closer, as the teams got more used to the conditions, and probably because the slight increase in wind velocity made the swells less of a factor. John's team pulled off 2 firsts, followed by Pierce with a 3rd and 2nd. We thought we had a 2nd and 4th, but were OCS in the last race, so Ezra's 5-3 made him the 3rd highest finisher on Sunday. In the final finish, the top 4 boats finished within about a boat length of each other. John won it by being the last one to jibe over to port, which allowed him to sail a slightly higher angle coming into the finish. Pierce jibed a bit before him, and we went over a bit in front of Pierce. Ezra split off early, but came out about the same at the finish.