

From Ken Legler, the coach of Tufts University's Sailing Team
To the Members of the Intercollegiate Sailing Association
Dated Oct. 10, 2011

I finally got to witness the STC IOR at Larchmont and what a show! It didn't feel like an offshore regatta with such light winds and flat water but it was raced in many really cool offshore boats. So many college sailors in one place, all in a fantastic learning environment. Each boat had an owners rep, a coach, or both; mostly for safety but also to instruct, guide, and even recruit crew for future regattas. Some owners sailed with their own offspring's team, many with their alma mater. The owners are terrific for lending their boats and are even a bigger reason for the event's success than the sponsors. That said, the many sponsors, including the Storm Trysail Club Foundation, Rolex, Vineyard Vines, Safe Flight Instruments, Caithness Energy, UK Halsey, Coke, Heineken, and Gill, came through huge again with all kinds of give-aways (half the students at our table won a monogrammed vest or fleece in the raffle) and, more important, cash. That meant no entry fee, lots of food, beautiful prizes, and all the other regatta expenses covered that competitors never see. It's amazing how fast 50 boxes of pizza can disappear with college sailors.

By the numbers there were 48 boats and over 400 sailors. Over 500 if you include the owners, coaches and officials. All but ten boats were J boats with large classes of J 44s, J 109s and J 105s. Even the IRC 40 class had a majority of J boats. Only the IRC 35 was without (three Express 37s, a C&C 115 and a Corby 33). There were fifteen service academy boats representing seven academies; even Army had an entry. They all did well too, which is not surprising since many regularly train on big boats. Navy won two classes while Maine Maritime took 3rd (only a point out of 1st) in the J 44 class and won the J 109 class with three bullets. That perfect score earned them the Hoffman trophy for overall performance. Now any award comparing different classes may seem arbitrary but I see Maine Maritime as the most improved big boat team in the nation, not just among the academies. I trust all of ICSA is rooting for them at the upcoming Student Yachting World Cup in La Rochelle, FR in Grand Surprise 32s. Note: MMA will not be the only ICSA team at the SYWC. Dalhousie U from Nova Scotia, the only ICSA team East of MMA is representing Canada.

Speaking of numbers, the wind never broke eight knots. The veteran race committee headed by Butch Ulmer (former college dinghy champion with Navy) managed three races Saturday with a clever and timely variety of course shortening for the different classes. Sunday morning two more races were started in a five knot NW wind but it wouldn't last a lap, let alone a race. 11:30 am seems early to abandon for the day but again wisdom prevailed. A three knot SW sea breeze did materialize which was just enough for a single pm YRA race in Etchells, etc. but you could see from the porch deck binoculars that two crew had to hike to leeward the entire time. 100 boxes of pizza were rushed to the scene of the awards.

The other 28 boats represented many small club teams from MAISA but also teams big and small from NEISA, MCSA, and even the Pacific Coast with USC winning the J 105 class. The event works great for club teams or any team on a limited budget. All you need is a car with five seat belts and you have enough for a J 105. Since the regatta doesn't count for anything (ranking, championship, etc.) you don't even have to practice, so long as you don't hit anything. As such the challenge set by Larchmont Commodore Carl Olsson to attract 50 boats and 500 sailors was nearly met and will surely be realized in another year. Go to: <http://www.stormtrysailfoundation.org/intercollegiate.htm> for way more info.

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