

# The Frostbite fleet finishes 53rd series

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The word frostbite sends a chill up the spine of most people. But to a group of hearty sailboat racers, it means bundling up in about five layers of clothing to go out to compete every weekend from the middle of October to early December.

The Frostbite Yacht Club ended its 53rd season on Sunday, Dec. 7, in 30-40 degree weather, racing in light winds on the Connecticut River near Essex, Conn.

Season championships were wrapped up in four classes; Lasers; Laser IIs; Blue Jays; and Interclub dinghies. About 80 boats raced, trying to better their position in the overall standings.

The Laser fleet was the most competitive with more than 50 boats registered each week. Jay Renehan, of Madison, Conn., won the fall series averaging 2.55 points in 17 races.

The second place finisher was Dave Peck with a 3.44 average in 22 races and Rob Scala finished third with a 5.44 average for 21 races.

In order to qualify for the series championship, a sailor must have raced in 75 percent of the races during the nine week season.

The second largest fleet was in Blue Jays. Dennis Posey of Haddam, Conn., wrapped up his 11th win in 12 series with an average of 1.4 points in 20 races.

He said he has won every spring and fall series since 1981 except one. He and his wife Charlotte teamed up to finish in the top three in nearly every race this fall.

Posey said he has been frostbiting since the late 1960s. He prefers it to racing in the summer because racing the one-design boats provides better racing competition.

Tim Healy and Rob Erda, a couple of the younger sailors in the club, finished second and third respectively. Healy finished the series with a 2.3 average in 20 races, while Erda, who also earned the club's Rookie of the Year honors, averaged 6.49 points for 18 races.

Tod Berman sailed away with the victory in Interclub fleet. His eligibility for the final points standings was question-

able at the beginning of racing on the final day, but he had competed in enough races to qualify for the final standings. He compiled an average of 2.25 in 17 races to win.

Second place finisher Neal O'Connell was hoping Berman didn't have enough points. If this had been the case, O'Connell would have had a shot at the championship.

O'Connell finished the series with a 3.22 average in 24 races. O'Connell took over as commodore of the club in January. Carl Fast finished third in the Interclubs with an average of 4.24 points in 24 races.

Although there were only 11 boats in the Laser II class, competition was still tough. Barry Kuehl was the first place finisher with a 1.73 average for 27 races. But the close competition was between second and third.

Jay Horrocks edged out third-place finisher Doug McDonald by .07 points finishing with a 3.58 average in 29 races, while McDonald had a 3.65 average in the same number of races.

Carter Gowrie, the club commodore until January, said the series went well overall. There were 134 club members registered with about 80 showing up each week.

Along with Erda winning the Rookie of the Year award, Interclub sailor Dave Dyson was presented with the Most Improved Sailor award.

Gowrie said the club has been sailing for 53 years, and its growth has been continuous. "We can't handle any more boats," he said. He thinks that people prefer to sail the one-design dinghies instead of the larger boats clubs sail during the summer.

"Dinghy sailing does a lot for you," he said. "It keeps you sharp."

Results:  
• Laser - 1. Jay Renehan, 2.56 avg., 17 races; 2. Dave Peck, 3.44 avg., 22 races; 3. Rob Scala, 5.44 avg., 21 races.  
• Blue Jay - 1. Dennis Posey, 1.4 avg., 20 races; 2. Tim Healy, 2.3 avg., 20 races; 3. Rob Erda, 6.49 avg., 18 races.  
• Interclub - 1. Tod Berman, 2.25 avg., 17 races; 2. Neal O'Connell, 3.22 avg., 24 races; 3. Carl Fast, 4.23 avg., 24 races.  
• Laser II - 1. Barry Kuehl, 1.71 avg., 27 races; 2. Jay Horrocks, 3.57 avg., 29 races; 3. Doug McDonald, 3.65 avg., 29 races.

87 ?