



## The Third Annual Black Star Regatta

The Budd Inlet Star Fleet of Olympia, Washington, USA hosted its Third Annual Black Star Regatta April 24 - 26, 2009. A windy Friday night practice race started the racing (a very exciting one this year with a hole in one boat); the Friday night social; good racing on Saturday (with one broken mast); a feast and raffle extraordinaire on Saturday night; and sunny light air sailing on Sunday.

"Everyone had their moment" sums up the variety of situations that occurred during this regatta. There were moments of: exhilaration, disappointment, gear failures, bad tactics, broken masts, duct tape usage, and pure joy. Lots of that!!

Friday night started with strong winds and the faces of the sailors showed it was an ordeal. A steady 14 knot breeze was blowing, and for us on south Puget Sound, that might as well have been a gale! It was survival mode for the two quick practice races. Two boats collided, and duct tape was rolled out to patch the hole. The sailors come home with additional knowledge of their competitors for the next day, and gained assurance that if it didn't break Friday night, they were good to go for the weekend!

Saturday morning at 0600, the wind was already blowing as we walked the dog - a good omen for the day. The race committee worked hard to set a fair starting line in the shifty wind conditions. We had four to eleven knots of wind for the five starts of the day. There were just a few showers, intermittent sunshine, and it was a great day of racing. Derek Decouteau ruled the day in the Classic fleet, with Norm Smit nipping at his heels. In the last race of the day those two skippers and crew practically horizoned the fleet by finishing the race as the rest of the boats rounded the last windward mark! John Thompson and Jim Findley were the stars in the wooden boat fleet and were right there in the top of all around too.

The boats were back to the dock by 1600 and a great dinner followed, catered by Tugboat Annie's, and a magnificent raffle.

Sunday broke with just the gentlest of breezes, and the boats sailed out to start racing by 1030. The race committee again did a great job, with PRO John DeMeyer, organizing three races in a diminishing breeze. The wind at the starts was 4 knots, 3 knots, and 2 knots, in that order! Dave Elliot had an excellent day of racing, moving up his standing in the Classic fleet from third to second. Derek sailed well both days, and held on to first place in the Classic fleet. In the wood fleet, John Thomson, switching into a wood boat from fiberglass this year, put together two good days to win the first place in that fleet, with Jim Findley taking second.

What makes these types of events seem so effortless is the time expended by others in making it happen. When it is good this behind the scenes work seems invisible. The Budd Inlet Star Fleet would not exist without Bill Brosius. His dedication of time and talent has been an inspiration for all of us. We have an incredible group of people working closely to make all the decisions and come to agreement over every detail.



### Budd Inlet Star Fleet



Bill Brosius founded and built the Budd Inlet (BI) Star Fleet at the South Sound Sailing Society (Washington). Brosius started with five old Star boats, convinced his new club mates to purchase them, and helped to ready them for racing.

His dedication to the growth of the fleet has been marked by his assistance to others by helping them to improve their sailing skills. He continues to locate older Star boats (all under #7200), arranges transportation and has even built a shop just to work on Stars, charging boat owners only for the cost of materials.

In 2006, the Budd Inlet Star Fleet joined the ISCYRA. Today, the Budd Inlet Fleet is 25 boats strong and growing, making it one of the largest Star fleets on the West Coast. In 2008, Brosius received the national One-Design Leadership Award from US Sailing.



Derek DeCouteau and Linda Koran



John and Erin Thompson

