



## RIPS Canadian Race Week 2006

AUGUST 17, 2006

### DIVISION 4 BY AVANTI II

Whoever decided to ask Avanti II to write about Thursday – thanks a million! If I had been asked to write about Monday – Wednesday, I would not have had many good things to say. But, Thursday was a great day on the water for us – but not so for Aquarius who lost her mast in Race 1. It looked like a great day for all the boats from Deep Cove YC. Crystal Dolphin, Haida 26 and Avanti II all raced well today. But, the most improved boat in our division is Bel Esprit. For two years, Avanti II raced pretty level with Bel Esprit, but this year she is consistently fast and well-sailed. Larry and his Ghost ship are also amazingly fast and consistent. At last (for us) a terrific regatta – again. Thanks to Sue & Alex and their team of organizers for a 1<sup>st</sup> class regatta.



### HOW FAST IS THAT?

Sue Foley commented on the speed of a competitor, “Magic Bus goes like shit through a goose.” When challenged on how she knows the speed of shit going through said bird, she proclaimed,

“I’ve been watching Goose all day, and she’s going like shit.”



### DIVISION 3 BY LIMBO

We arrived in good spirits, only to find that the competition was a whole lot of light airs boats. With Limbo weighing in at more that the two heaviest competitors combined, we were hoping for heavy winds, in order to be in the running; however, I pointed out that, with only three in our crew, and an average age of 66+ maybe we would be better with light airs. Day 1 saw light airs and we managed to do well. Thank goodness it was only two races, as we had to do a spinnaker repair in between, with over 60 feet of duct tape putting our “tape drive spin” into the running for the second race. Day 2 was also light airs with three races, and the “young guy” (would you believe 5 grand kids?) not only doing foredeck, but packing the spinnaker 6 times during the race, but we did quite well, still in a

dead heat for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with Imagine, while Runnin’ Blues sewed up first in the division. Interestingly, the Race Officer was either a bit flustered with the issue of Mark 1/1a or has become Canadianized, as I heard over the racing circuit “The next warning will be for the start of division one, eh?” Day 3 saw our Genoa needing some repairs on the luff, so now we have a “tape drive” genoa, as well as spinnaker. Red Green would be proud. This day saw Imagine inch ahead in the race for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and Runnin’ Blues sewing up the 1<sup>st</sup> in div. Day 4 gave us the big winds that we had asked for, and we had a great 1<sup>st</sup> race, with line honours in the first two races, and a 1 and 2 in the first two races, almost putting Runnin’ Blues out of the top position; however, the third race gave the tie breaker to Runnin’ Blues, and we were happy to accept a 2<sup>nd</sup>, and it was wonderful to see Nemesis step up to the winning circle. Friday looks to be another great day on the water, and maybe White Wave will pull the Rabbit out of the hat, as he has done on each of the past two years in RIPS. I would like to comment the organizers, as this has been another great time on the water.



## AGELESS

Seven decades separate the senior RIPS volunteer from the junior. Self-described as the signal boat's horn man, Herb Roberts (age 84) has worked each of the regatta's three years. Herb is a lifelong boater. "I started in North Atlantic corvettes in WWII, then progressed through a Crown 18, Crown 23 to a Columbia 8.7." After 30 years of sailing, Herb sold his boat just three years ago. Pressed into service as photo boat driver, Bruce Graham (age 13) experienced his first RIPS – and first live sailboat race – this year. Bruce started boating around age five, and has been sailing with granddad for the past three years. Although initially a bit nervous – mainly about getting run down – he now thinks that he might like to race someday - or get a really big RHIB like the ones the Navy guys play with. "I was surprised at how fast the sailboats can go, and the close-calls were thrilling. It was exciting being in the middle of it all."



## BENT OUT OF SHAPE

"We were into the start sequence," recalled Debbie McQuade (Aquarius). "When we pulled in the jib, there was a loud pop! We thought, that didn't sound too good." It wasn't. A starboard shroud snapped, and the mast bent to port. "We did a great recovery and stayed out of everyone's way." The good news – no one was injured. The bad news – Aquarius was second in

its division at the time of its race-ending mishap.



## PICTURE THIS!

RIPS 2006 is recorded for posterity in nearly 2,000 on-the-water photos, probably including your boat, crew and some things you'd rather forget. High-quality custom prints are available for sale. You can order your favourite scenes (the ones you want to show off) at a reasonable price – the ones you don't want anyone to see cost considerably more (to not be printed!). Your race package contained prices and contact info. There are discounts for bulk orders (so skippers and crew can save \$\$\$ if you order together). In case you lost it, here's the contact info: Eric W. Manchester (Victoria, BC). Phone/fax: 250-294-1750. Email: [ewmanchester@shaw.ca](mailto:ewmanchester@shaw.ca)



## YOU ASKED FOR IT

It wasn't planned, but YES, I can produce a CD with a big selection

of RIPS photos in low-resolution (ideal for viewing or emailing). The price is \$20 (Cdn) which includes tax and shipping. Place your order with Eric Manchester.

