

Sunday, August 23, 2009
For immediate release:

SAILING

50th Mobjack National Championship Ware River Yacht Club Gloucester, VA

Sunday August 23, 2009 marked the final day of the 50th Mobjack Nationals which consisted of three races, for a total of nine for the regatta, the most races ever completed in a Mobjack Nationals ever, in spite of coming in early on Saturday to avoid the storm. Racing took place over three days at the mouth of the Ware River where it joins the Mobjack Bay on Ware Neck near Gloucester, VA. Mark Arnold, with his friend and longtime crew Matt Frank of Chesapeake, VA won the National Championship with a total of 13 points. This was the 5th time for Mark and Matt together and the 10th time for Mark. In second place was Len Guenther, the defending National Champion sailing with his daughter Heidi of Alexandria, VA, followed by Case Whittemore of Williamsburg, VA sailing with Ken Sears of Richmond. In Forth place was Jim Rice with crew Pete Wallio of Newport News. In Fifth Place was Jerry Desvernine of Glen Allen, VA with crew Josh Guenther of Alexandria. Case Whittemore of Williamsburg, VA was named the Senior National Champion. The racers enjoyed four races on Friday in strong winds with plenty of capsizes and broken gear. Saturday gave perfect wind for the light boats and the competition intensified. A Reunion Long Distance race was scheduled for Saturday afternoon, however impending storms kept us in and we watched it go by from the comfort of the club house. A Reunion Dinner was held at the Ware River Yacht Club bringing several long time Mobjackers out, including the designer, Roger Moorman who is now 87. The regatta was led by Principle Race Officer John Ritter of Langley Yacht Club assisted by Rick Klein, Richard Biggs, Pat Williams, Robert Bowles, Blackwell Nottingham, Mike Dale and Robert Anderson served on the Race Committee. The races consisted of a mixture of Triangle and Windward-Leeward courses with each leg approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile or more in length. 18 boats competed in nine races over the three day regatta in spite of losing Saturday afternoon to a storm. Awards were notable in that they were original prints made and signed by Meg Roberts of the Mobjack hull plans in attractive colors. Meg, immediate past president of the Mobjack Association, recently graduated summa cum laud from VCU with a bachelor in Fine Arts.

Ware River Yacht Club brought the Mobjacks and their 50th National Championship Regatta back to the Mobjack Bay and home of the designer, Roger Moorman. Eighteen boats competed in the three day regatta. The Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association sanctioned the regattas.

The Mobjack is a seventeen-foot sloop-rigged sailboat, with a jib, mainsail and spinnaker crewed by two or three sailors. The boat is rigged with a trapeze for balance and a roller furling jib. It is self-bailing and easily rightable in a capsize. Over 500 of the fiberglass boats have been built and are raced throughout the Chesapeake Bay and on the Delaware Bay. They are also sailed on the lakes and shores of Tennessee, Wisconsin, California, Texas, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Utah, New Jersey and New York. The boat is used for racing, day sailing or cruising and sailing instruction, by sailors of all ages. At this Nationals the youngest skipper was 22 and the oldest was 68 (he finished eighth!). It is often sailed and raced by family teams, including husband and wife teams. The boat was designed by Roger Moorman of Gloucester, VA in the 1950s when it was one of the first fiberglass reinforced plastic boats made. The boat has been built in Gloucester by Moorman, Browning Arms, Harry Sindle at Newport Boats and is now back in production by Miles Booth of Gloucester and Performance Yachts. New boats are available and there will is special 50th Anniversary Edition.

2009 50th Mobjack Naty's Awards:

The winner will be awarded the International Mobjack Championship Trophy. Prizes will also be awarded to 2nd through 5th positions.

5 th Place	Jerry Desvernine and Josh Guenther
4 th Place	Jim Rice and Pete Wallio
3 rd Place	Case Whittemore and Ken Sears
2 nd Place	Len and Heidi Guenther

National Champion Mark Arnold and Matt Frank

The Stein Award (Senior National Champion) shall be presented to the skipper with the best finish who is 63 years of age or older at the start of the National Championship Regatta.

Case Whittemore

The Ulmer Award will be presented to the member participating in their first Nationals as a skipper who finishes highest in the regatta but does not receive a position award.

Justin Ailsworth and Will Crum, Deltaville, VA

The Stephanie Ann Ives Memorial Trophy (Youth Award) shall be presented to that member skipper, not having reached their 21st birthday during the year the Nationals is held, who finishes highest in the regatta but does not receive a position award or the Ulmer Award for the regatta.

Not presented

The "Family Award" shall be presented to the qualifying skipper who finishes highest in the regatta but does not receive a position award, Ulmer Award or youth award. To qualify, the skipper must have at least one crewmember from another generation of their family aboard.

Tom and Sam Roberts

The "Top Woman Skipper Award" shall be presented to the female skipper finishing highest in the National Championship Regatta.

Meg Roberts

The Mobjack Systems Award shall be presented to the husband-wife team regardless of which is skipper and crew who have the best finish among husband-wife teams.

John and Kathy Gardener

The "Long Haul Award" shall be presented to that member who trails their boat the longest distance in order to participate in the Nationals.

Al Williamson from Knoxville, Tenn.

The "Fleet Award" shall be presented to the fleet (other than the host fleet) which has the largest number of boats participating in the Nationals. In the case of a tie, the fleet with the highest total standing in the regatta shall be given the award.

Potomac River Sailing Association

The "Anchor Award" shall be presented to the skipper who has the largest number of total points of all skippers completing every race. In the tradition of this award the winner is to maintain the trophy for the following year and add one piece of memorabilia or otherwise make improvements to enhance the trophy.

Ron Lloyd and Todd Hart

The Stephen McDonough Sr. Award shall be presented to the skipper who has displayed the best sportsmanship during the regatta. This shall be determined by a vote of the participating sailors.

Tom Roberts (although not a skipper)

For more information:

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