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## News & Features

### Frenesi shines in 2007 Chowder Cup Race

By Nina M. Scott

For Points East

The 28th Friendship Chowder Cup race, scheduled for Aug. 4 was postponed because of dense fog and a series of powerful thunderstorms. Aug. 5 was much the better day. Of the 37 boats registered, 32 finished. Instead of the prevailing southwest breezes, this time we had fluky northwest winds.

As usual, the A (over 28 feet) and B (18 to 28 feet) classes raced together over a longer course than the C class (up to 18 feet). The overall A&B winner was Frenesi, a 33-foot Contention sloop, sailed by Dick Semmes and Judy Ribeiro; 2nd and 3rd in the A class went to George Baker's 30' Pearson Summer Love and Dave and Doug Gleason's 37-foot Bostrom sloop Turtle. **Second overall and winner of the B class was Chris Duda, in his J/24 C-Monkey**, closely followed by Chuck Thompson's Colgate 26 Triple Lindy and Tom Hammermeister's 24-foot Bridges Point Merlot. Last Boat In honors (recipient of the famous can of fish chowder) went to Dave and Nancy Johnson, whose 23-foot Sea Sprite White Seal did not have the best of days.

Frenesi, according to her skipper, did so well "because our hearts are in it, because she points like a bandit, and has a new suit of racing sails." George Baker loved the banter back and forth between the boats, especially with Turtle, whom he beat by less than two minutes. **Chris Duda is a counselor at Camp Friendship on Crotch Island, a camp for inner-city kids from Brooklyn, N.Y. Five of the boys accompanied Chris, while six girls raced two boats in the C class**, having had all of two days of practice. Chuck Thompson was very happy with Triple Lindy's performance, especially since he had recently bought the boat sight-unseen at the Chicago Boat show and had never participated in the Chowder Cup race before. Tom Hammermeister was content with Merlot, observing that "other boats are faster, but ours is prettier."

Of the 13 boats participating in the C-class, seven were Friendship catboats. Of these, Barbara C came in 2nd, well-handled by Catherine Armstrong and Arthur Blodgett, sailing instructors at the Atlantic Challenge in Rockland. Edith Armstrong and Gary Lehy were 3rd, in Rattle Ya Dags, another catboat. First place went to John Bartlett, 15, and his cousin Charles Keighley, 13. John sailed a 470, which he has owned for about a year, but hasn't named yet. Had he gotten a good start, I asked him? "Not really," John said. "I'd never raced before, so I hung back to see what other people were doing." Once over the starting line, though, he uncorked his craft and the rest is history.

This year's black and white T-shirt was designed by professional photographer Jeremy Barnard, the sixth-year that Friendship artists have contributed their designs. The T-shirts are sold by the Chowder Cup Association to cover their expenses and to make an annual donation to the Friendship Fire Department.

The post-race dinner at the Martin Point Community House was another joyous affair, with good food and lively postmortems on the race. Judy and Bob Zeitlin, long the heart and soul of the Chowder Cup Association, were roundly applauded. Chris Duda brought the 11 campers who'd participated in the race, and all gathered with him to accept his winner's chowder cup.

Chris' neighbors, Suzanne and Bill Hallstein, aware of all that Chris and his family do for these kids, bought each of the campers a T-shirt. At \$18 a shirt, that was a most generous gesture. When I spoke to Suzanne about it, she said, "There are some things you need to do in life. We'll just eat out a bit less this summer."

I leave you with a bit of Friendship racing lore, told to me by Dave Gleason, co-skipper of Turtle, while



describing their performance in the race. "On the downwind leg we were going to fly our spinnaker, but we couldn't get it up. That was OK, though, because then we didn't have to take it down." His wife Kim also reminded him of David Jones, a mutual friend and kayaker, who followed the A&B race and beat Turtle to the finish because at the end of the race the wind was nearly nonexistent.

Do come and join us next year on the first Saturday in August