

2013 Triangle Cup Regatta

by Bob Szczepanski

The 12th annual EC12 Triangle Cup Regatta (June 1 & 2) was one of the best and most highly contested event of them all. It was certainly well attended. Twenty-two skippers entered, but after some last minute fall out, nineteen ended up ready to race. The fleet was split according to the EC12 Skipper Rankings and the B fleet skippers hit the starting line promptly at 9:30 AM. The top four finishers were promoted to A fleet.

Winds were top of the A rig range and the long windward/leeward course made for some exciting sailing going around 2 ½ times. Broaches, round ups and the classic EC12 downwind "rock and roll" challenged all. Four skippers separated themselves from the rest of the fleet and the competition became intense among them. After five races, only four points separated David Linville, Gerry Cogley, Carl Olbrich and Scott Vernon respectively. After ten races, David Linville's consistent sailing was challenged by Carl Olbrich's outstanding boat speed, followed by Scott Vernon and then Gerry Cogley comprising the top four. The point spread now grew to 14.

The high winds and inevitable collisions diminished the fleet by several boats. On Sunday, the winds increased to the point where the entire fleet switched to B rigs (if they had them) before the start of the first race. There was little doubt about the rig change evidenced by the whitecaps and wind streaks on Lake Crabtree. Gerry Cogley got every one's attention with sparkling boat speed and first place finishes in the first four races of the day. Carl Olbrich, also demonstrating superb boat speed, was not far behind on each of those races. The leaders were now Carl Olbrich, Gerry Cogley and David Linville separated by only three points, followed by Scott Vernon whom was only 11 points off the lead. Two more races were held. The second last race was conducted to allow another throw out and the final race was held to remove doubt. The excitement and tension was evident. While Carl and Gerry dueled, David nailed the start, got to the windward mark first and led the fleet to a first place finish on the final race. Carl aggressively pushed an inshore tack and ran aground allowing Gerry to finish ahead of him. Scott ran afoul at the start and was unable to recover.

It was now time for math and spreadsheets. After two throw outs, Carl and Gerry were tied for first with 37 points each. David ended up in third with 39 points. Gerry's 1st in the first race and his string of 1st places on Sunday dominated all for a convincing tie break. As a final punctuation to how tight the racing was, it was noted that David Linville actually finished two points ahead of both Carl and Gerry before the throw outs – whew, whatta regatta!

Thanks to all skippers, to Karen Szczepanski for scoring, Jock and Mickey Gault and Dan Stomka for food, water, photos and general assistance.

Summary of the Triangle Cup Regatta

Class: EC12

Date: June 1 – 2

Location: Lake Crabtree County Park, Raleigh, NC

Host Club: Triangle Model Yacht Club

Number of entries: 19

Winds: Saturday 8 – 12 mph with higher gusts. Sunday 10 – 15 mph with higher gusts.

Races Completed: 16 including one non-scored seeding race.

Scoring System: Low point with two throw outs.

Regatta Committee and valuable assistants: Bob Szczepanski – RD, Gerry Cogley – Race Chairman, Karen Szczepanski – Scorer, Jock and Mickey Gault, Dan Stomka – Assistants.

Results

Place	Skipper	Sail #	Points
1	Gerry Cobby	2125	37
2	Carl Olbrich	1969	37
3	David Linville	2099	39
4	Scott Vernon	2880	53
5	Dick Proseus	1519	58
6	Tony Shoaf	1347	62
7	Chris Kakavas	2048	78
8	Rick Ferguson	2075	95
9	Marty Scheuer	1302	113
10	Ron Small	1458	120
11	John Kircher	2076	131
12	Richard Wiley	1456	133
13	Tom Evens	1053	164
14	Alan Morris	2373	181
15	Jerry Fernald	1832	191
16	Geoffrey Cohen	1332	205
17	Glenn Morris	1272	216
18	Dan Stomka	1647	229
19	George Morris	1255	239