

ZWERVER WINS CASTINE CLASSIC YACHT RACE

Zwerver, the 57' Sparkman & Stephens designed sloop built in 1954, led the fleet in the Tenth Annual Castine Classic Yacht Race to Camden sponsored by the Castine Yacht Club. *Zwerver* was sailed by a crew including Robert Brooks and Ben Rogers, as well as Jeff Grey and AJ Evans of S&S. Her owner, Frans van Schaik from the Netherlands, was unable to make the race.

The Castine event kicked off three days of classic boat racing culminating in the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta. *Zwerver* also won the Camden Feeder Race to Brooklin (with S&S chief designer Bruce Johnson at the helm) and took second in her class in the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta.

Under clear skies, the fleet of thirty one boats set sail in four classes from the Castine harbor bell on a 19.6 nm course ending off Curtis Island in Camden. The winds at the start were light and fickle, but a few miles down the course a moderate south-west breeze filled Penobscot Bay.

Sailing in Classic A, *Zwerver* beat *Joyant* by 15 seconds on corrected time. *Joyant*, a 58' Herreshoff gaff rigged sloop built in 1912, was sailed by Robert McNeil. A three minute penalty for not towing a dinghy cost *Joyant* the top spot. *Siren*, the 45' S&S designed New York 32 skippered by Peter Cassidy, took third, less than two minutes behind the winner.

The Classic B class was led by *Palawan*, a 47' S&S sloop built in 1952 and sailed by Scott Gazelle. *Palawan* edged out *Young Miss*, a 47' gaff rigged Buzzard's Bay 30 designed by Herreshoff and built in 1912. *Bonnie*, a 48' S&S yawl sailed by Albert Diran, took third.

In Classic C, *M29*, recently launched by Morris Yachts and sailed by Cuyler Morris, took honors. *Thora*, a Little Harbor 36 skippered by Vince Todd took second, followed by *Arabesque*, a 38' S&S sloop sailed by Dan Gregorie.

Pleione, a 48' 8-Meter sloop skippered by Bruce Dyson, repeated her 2008 victory in the Spirit of Tradition class. *White Wings*, the 76' W-76 sloop sailed by Donald Tofias, took line honors but placed second on corrected time. *Vortex*, the 53' sloop sailed by Sarah O'Neil and an all-woman crew, took third place.

The race marked the maiden outings of *Bequia*, the 90' sloop built by Brooklin Boat Yard, as well as *Hope*, a 52' sloop and *M29*, both from Morris Yachts. *Bequia* struggled with light winds at the start and took sixth in the Spirit of Tradition class, just behind *Hope*.

This year's Castine Classic celebration honored Maine boat builders. A large and enthusiastic audience turned out for a symposium featuring many of Maine's leading builders, including representatives from Hodgdon Yachts, The Hinckley Company, John

M. Williams Company, Brooklin Boat Yard, John's Bay Boat Company, Lyman Morse Boatbuilders, Morris Yachts, Rockport Marine and Sabre Yachts. Examples of their boats were on public exhibition at the Castine town dock. The symposium was chaired by Gary Jobson, the renowned sailor, author and commentator. Jobson used the opportunity to announce his election as new head of U.S. Sailing.

At the awards ceremony at the Wooden Boat School in Brooklin following the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta, David Bicks, co-chair of the Castine events, presented the Ames Cup to Robert Brooks of *Zwerver* as overall winner of the Castine Classic Yacht Race. The Ames Cup honors the memory of Richard Glover Ames and Henry Russell Ames who were lost at sea on June 19, 1935 south of the Grand Banks, in an unsuccessful effort to save their father who was washed overboard during the Newport to Bergen, Norway yacht race.

Zwerver also won the Sparkman & Stephens trophy awarded to the S&S boat with the lowest corrected time.

The Phalarope Trophy was presented to Anne Ashton, skipper of the top Concordia Yacht, *Phalarope*. This trophy honors the memory of her later husband, Castine sailor Thomas G. Ashton, Sr.

The Mitch Gibbons-Neff trophy (given in memory of Mitch Gibbons-Neff, late head of S&S) was awarded to Peter Cassidy of *Siren*, as the top New York 32 in the Penobscot Bay series. Three well-sailed New York 32's competed for this honor, with *Siren* edging out *Falcon* and the newly restored *Isla*.

Photographs courtesy of Cynthia Boyer



NY-32s duel: *Falcon* about to overtake *Isla* (NY10) at finish of CCYR



Zwerver leading fleet in Castine Classic Race



Eggemoggin Reach Regatta fleet takes off with Mermaid(446) in foreground