

2008 New Years Day Race  
By: Rick McCrary

New Years day race was a wonderful day of good blessing and competitive sailing. The club had our New Years Day Race and ceremonial blessing of the fleet. We had a great turn out with 10 sailboats and one committee boat. Several people found their way to the T-dock at the Titusville municipal marina for Father Michael's (from St. Teresa Catholic Church) blessing of the fleet. Even Tom Carter Sr. was able to make his way to the blessing at the end of B-Dock. Father Michael's started his blessing with a short but well-stated sermon and the Lord's Prayer. At the completion, the boats paraded past the dock and Father Michael blessed each vessel.



After the blessing, the sailboats made their way out to the north course for the race. Thanks to Roy Merritt from the Power Squadron for providing a Committee Boat at the start line.



Although the winds were not as strong as expected, the racing was good and everyone involved had a wonderful time. Dave Summers, our Rear Commodore, set a good course that we navigated south first and then to the north. We all did the course for two loops. For those that haven't raced the north course, the race starts just east of the entrance to the Titusville Marina. On this day, the boats made their way south to a marker just north of the bridge and east of the channel. After the turn, everyone made their way up the channel keeping the green channel markers to the starboard. The wind direction made the upwind run challenging despite the velocity, 6 to 10 knots. Ray Laguna, Mike McClain and Hamilton Sirls quickly set the pace and separated themselves from the rest of the pack, with Mike McCarthy and his red Catalina, *Jughead in a Jar*, keeping up a good fourth through the whole race. At the northern turn it was Ray in the lead, Mike in second, and Hamilton in the third position.



This order would remain the same up until the final turn, where Hamilton would pass Mike for second. Hamilton was never challenged again. The second group of racers was made up of Lee Web with his crew aboard *Sen Jer*, Rick McCrary and crew aboard *Sea Crow*, and a new member, Brian Aldeghi, aboard his Seaward 26. All three boats battled it out through the first loop. Rick, that would be me, finally took the lead on the down wind run of the first loop.



The second group never challenged him again. Lee and Brian battled it out to the end. Bring up the rear was Nathan Jones and crew aboard his newly launched Irwin, the *Not in a Hurry*. Terry Back, also a new member, aboard his racing cat zoomed around like a crazed wind showing the rest of us how this racing thing is supposed to be done. I believe he did three loops, at least, to the rest of our two loops.

After the race most of the racers met back at the clubhouse for socializing and

awards. It was nice to see Tom Carter Sr. again at the clubhouse after the race. Hopefully, he'll be out sailing with us again soon. The winner of the New Years Day race was Ray Laguna and his crew aboard *Easy Street*, in second was club commodore Hamilton Sirls and crew aboard *Adios* and coming in a very respectful third was Mike McClain and crew on board *Class Act*. When you see our race winners give them a hearty congratulations. The New Years Day race was a great start to the 2008 sailing year. Don't forget that the Spring Race Series starts February 3rd. Please make plans to race your boat in the series or come down to the captains meetings and become a crew on one of the boats.



Go catch a breeze! It's a water planet!  
Get out there!