

## This Year's Story of Huntington...

Huntington is always one of the most important regattas of the year, no matter what. There are almost always more boats than any other regatta and usually tougher competition. The '93 version was certainly true for the latter. It turned out to be old home week as well. Several of the skippers and crews were former National Champions (but some hadn't sailed for some time): Ole Eichhorn, Peter Drasnin, Vesco Razpopov, Benny Schweigler, Keith Dodson, Kevin Thomas, Jason VandenBerg and myself, and the most famous duo Allison Jolly and Mark Elliot. Then just to add a little extra spice, Jackie Gollison, a 470 Olympic contender. But the talent didn't stop there, lots of other crews were capable of pulling off a bullet or two — Stan Sorenson, Phil Ash, and Barbie Anderson, to name a few. Each Huntington Regatta has its own story. This year's race was the one between the girls and the boys.

Saturday morning dawned as beautiful as ever. The lake was not only full from the heavy winter snows but overflowing. The valley down below had been hot the day before, so everyone expected good winds. Sure enough, about an hour after the 10:00 a.m. skippers' meeting, the wind started to come down the 4-1/2-mile length of the lake. The first race started with a modest 10-12 knots. The direction was normal, which meant starboard tack to the Boy Scout camp three-quarters of a mile away. This gives everyone plenty of time to flex their speed and pointing muscles. You have to be in the first row with some space below and grind it out or be reduced to the middle of the fleet by the time you make that first port tack off the left shore.

Jason and I got there in fairly good shape, even though the start wasn't the best and we were forced to take one hitch before we reached the scout camp. By the time we reached the top of the lake it was a six-boat race. At the finish, Allison and Jackie were fighting for every inch. We were close behind but faced with the decision of going for a risky third or a safe fourth. I chose the latter, not Jason's choice, but we were able to squeeze out Ole and Peter.

The second start was one of the most remarkable strokes of bad luck Jason and I have ever experienced. We were called over early. Now this may not seem too unusual, but consider that we have made at least 200



*A Fleet winner Jackie Gollison (skipper), pictured, and Keith Dodson.*



*A Fleet second place Allison Jolly (skipper), pictured, and Mark Elliot.*



*A Fleet third place Ole Eichhorn (skipper), pictured, and Peter Drasnin.*

## Top Male to Finish

starts together and only had about three called back. The strange thing was, in this same race (second) and in the same spot on the line, exactly one year earlier we were also over early. Who said lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place? Nuts, or something to that order — probably a lot stronger. By the time we went back it was all over. Jackie managed to beat Allison; so now they each had a first.

Sunday was a different day, and hope burns eternal. Everyone was anxiously awaiting the "big showdown" between Allison Jolly and Jackie Gollison. Allison hadn't lost a C-15 regatta in about eight years. Jackie started on the leeward pin, Allison about 20 yards to weather. Jackie had to take a hitch at the bottom of the scout camp, Allison took one about halfway there. They both came out almost dead even. Then it's short tack up the left side until the wind starts to drop; then out to the middle and play every shift until you reach the top. The lead changed only a couple of times, as Mark did his usual great job keeping a close cover and searching for that one shift that would separate them. It never came, as Keith Dodson did just as good a job for Jackie. As the weather mark was rounded, Allison led by about three boat lengths. Then Keith made a decision that works about one time in fifty. They went down the right shore, which is usually the light side. Allison and Mark went straight to the next mark, which takes you across the middle, where most of the puffs will fill from. It all looked pretty even for a while when suddenly a big puff filled from the right. In less than two minutes, Jackie had an unbeatable lead and never looked back. Jason and I were lucky to be close enough to all the action to enjoy the battle and finished third that race, but the over early on Saturday was the killer. We had beaten Ole and Peter twice, but they got the trophy, Top Male To Finish. Thanks to Jan Schweigler for the on-the-spot artwork. Oh yes, I can't believe lightning can strike three times in the same spot... can it?

Jamie Nichols won the Bs handily with father Jim on the wire. Gregory Baldwin was second by only 2-1/4 points.



Story By Jim Holder • Photos By Carol Vandenberg



J Fleet winner (right) Jamie Nichols (skipper) and Jim Nichols.



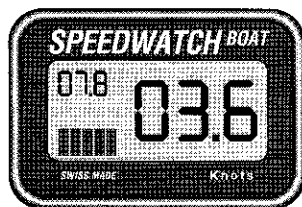
# BUDDY MELGES RECOMMENDS

To get the maximum performance from your boat, you need to know wind and water speed. These instruments are highly useful in learning how to get top performance from your boat.

## SPEEDWATCH

THE REVOLUTIONARY KNOTMETER

- Reads water speed through your boat's hull without the need for any holes
- Solar powered, waterproof & compact
- Display head mounts with dual lock velcro
- Reads to 99.9 knots with digital accuracy
- Retains maximum speed attained in memory



ORDER  
NOW FOR  
CHRISTMAS

Available at Marine Stores  
or Laylin Associates, Ltd.  
10413 Deerfoot Drive  
Great Falls, VA 22066  
Tel. (703) 759-0511  
(800) 758-6969  
Fax (703) 759-0509

## SKYWATCH

THE ULTIMATE WINDMETER

- Measures windspeed to 99 knots
- Guaranteed accurate and waterproof
- Permanent lithium battery rated for over 1,000,000 measurements

- Rotating housing protects the impeller from damage or dirt

