



photo by Jud Judson

IOD FLEET REPORT

by: Peter Goulding & Chris Gould

THANK YOU...

Reflection on another great season should start with some important notes of thanks, beginning with Ian McNeice, our fleet captain, who dedicated himself once again to facilitating an outstanding racing experience for all of us.

A special thank you also goes to our PRO, Eric Robbins, and his wonderful crew on Maushope which included Judd Judson, Judy Zurheide, Rebecca Bent and Neil Hoyles. The Race Committee was assisted by several members of the sailing staff throughout the season. Thanks for making a wonderful season possible!

REMEMBRANCE...

As we look back on the 2012 season, marked by passing of Whitey Willauer, a past Nantucket Yacht Club Commodore and long-time standard bearer of the IOD fleet, it is perhaps fitting that the theme of the year was knowledge sharing. Whitey led many Wednesday afternoon IOD clinics designed to introduce sailors to our IOD fleet and was still working to improve his racing performance right up to his last sail. There are not many other sports that allow you to be competitive at the age of 81.

2012 THEME: KNOWLEDGE...

At our annual mid-winter meeting, David Poor made a provocative presentation, encouraging all of us to invest in knowledge sharing. The fleet listened and took action, resulting in a weekly log in which the PRO and winning contestants reflect on what worked. Several teams made the further investment of studying these logs (all are posted at: nantucketyachtclub.org/Racing/IOD Fleet/Results and offer excellent reference material) as well as generally improving their processes by reading and talking about best racing practices, elevating performance of all crew members, occasionally racing with talented sailors from other waters, and participating in off-island events in IODs and other classes.

The generous and open response of the fleet's best sailors has been beneficial to all, and heartening to witness. Unlike the jealous chef who won't divulge a secret recipe, our top skippers have unselfishly explained what they're doing: observing and learning.

RAISING THE BAR...

The skills of the entire fleet continue to improve. At the end of the 2011 season, Roy Weedon led the Sierra syndicate to a remarkable first place in the IOD North American Championship, with seven first place finishes out of eight races. Pierre Crosby and his Delta team emerged this season as a top contender, winning

both the August Series (by 18pts!) and winning the Bermuda Race Week Qualifier. The success of both Sierra and Delta are inspirational to any team looking to improve. Clearly these two teams reaped the benefit of dedicating themselves to improvement.

KNOWN BY THE COMPANY WE KEEP...

As much as we enjoy our racing, pride in the Nantucket IOD fleet is reinforced by the interest shown by talented visitors who are attracted to our boats and venue. As the Nantucket Yacht Club Invitational kicked off the season, all of the top three boats were from off-island. The event was won by the Fishers Island team led by Kevin Farrar and Charlie Van Voorhis, who have four World Championships between them.

Competition was bolstered again with (pro) Dave Franzel sailing with Whiskey July 22nd. Sandy Adzick (first female collegiate All-American sailor, daughter of Web Ray) skippered Golf on August 12th and put on her own racing clinic. Guest appearances were also made by America's Cup trimmer Jon Wright, pro Karl Andersen, several sailmakers and other luminaries.

During Nantucket Race Week, the IOD Celebrity Invitational again presented the opportunity to race our boats with legends such Gary Jobson, Dave Dellenbaugh, Dave Perry, Mark Reynolds and many more (check out the Celebrity Invitational program posted on the IOD Fleet results portion of our website, for more information of our celebrity tacticians, and www.nantucketraceweek.org for photos, results and other information).

AND THE PLACES WE GO...

Numerous Nantucket Yacht Club members, including several IOD fleet sailors, trained for the New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup US Qualifying Series beginning in April. From the perspective of the IOD fleet, there is no question that the off-island experience will pay dividends on our home waters. Having Skip Willauer, Ian McNeice, David Poor and Spencer Verney travel to Sonar regattas to compete against world champions, and train with coach and former Sonar World Champion Dave Franzel, gives our fleet a boost as they bring home a contagious "go-fast" mindset. Competing against the very best yacht club teams in the country can only raise our level of competitiveness.

In October, Ian McNeice and team Hotel will represent Nantucket in the 2012 IOD World Championship in Bermuda. This team took an impressive third place in the 2010 Worlds in Northeast Harbor (Maine). Next year's representatives will be Peter McCausland and team Golf at Fishers Island.

REFLECTIONS AND OUTLOOK...

With six major scored events we had four different winners. This speaks well to the diversity at the top of the fleet. Meanwhile, every syndicate is raising its game as the standard of performance for the fleet rises. Amidst this advancement, our leadership and entire membership should strive to provide ongoing encouragement, as well as a fun and welcoming environment, for new members and for syndicates that are rebuilding.

And in a few short months – on to the 2013 season!!