



Rob Mulder powering his distinctive Otter design upwind through waves in #2 rig off Harbour Quay. Art Prufer image.

**Pier Pressure** (Coastal Cup Series #6 at Port Alberni, BC)

By Barry Fox

What a day! For the last few years we have been trying to get a regatta at Port Alberni because, “the wind always blows there”. Last year was our first trek to Harbour Quay, and of course it didn’t. Although we stayed all day long, we barely got in 7 races and even those were mostly one lap of what was a pretty short course. It has to get better, right?

This year we started off with light winds and a lot of drifting. Better than last year but not a lot better. 6 races in we took our lunch break, and hoped for the afternoon to be better.

Well it was!! The wind just kept building and before long we switched to #2 rigs. When most of the fleet had switched there were 3 hold-overs that stayed on #1 rigs, but by the time the clock started it was glorious #2 conditions to complete the day. From the links, you will see some good photos and video of the venue with whitecaps and waves. As the afternoon wore on we had our own set of carnage as boats started to take on water and otherwise be pushed harder than they are used to. But what fun!!! You can easily see that Graham Herbert stole (actually dominated) the day with his non-wins being his only drops. Graham was excellent in all conditions. There were some good scraps for position quite a way down through the fleet.

Thanks to Stan Schofield for fronting this for us and to Lawrie Neish and Art Prufer for handling the scoring and race operations. Lots of others chipped in to help get setup and taken down.

We need to go back!! For those that don’t know this venue, the briny water is tidal and wind is usually blowing here. The control area is an excellent elevated concrete pier. The launch area is behind the pier and you sail around the pier for launch access, which is not too much of a hardship. With the #1 rig, you can launch by grabbing the top of the rig, but that is not an option with smaller rigs. It is lively here with lots of shops and restaurants close by. What’s not to like? Parking is some ways away, but fortunately you can unload your gear at the pier and then park your car and vice versa. No venue is perfect.

**Art Prufer’s Images:** [https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOfPlyUMBI2DRfneqC5ewkc-P-VpZk82F-pAPVVeokSR97-X37aIH7Q1\\_wnUsf2QQ?key=VFFqYmplMEhDcDZ4U1EtZnpNbUNXYI9CRjlwUIVn](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOfPlyUMBI2DRfneqC5ewkc-P-VpZk82F-pAPVVeokSR97-X37aIH7Q1_wnUsf2QQ?key=VFFqYmplMEhDcDZ4U1EtZnpNbUNXYI9CRjlwUIVn)

**Art Prufer’s Cap Video:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM9ZTd\\_Yj90&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM9ZTd_Yj90&feature=youtu.be)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ls8BW9Z3lvA&feature=youtu.be>

**Pier Pressure Regatta Results after 13 races with two throw-outs:**

Position	Skipper	Sail #	City	Hull	Score
1	Graham Herbert	31	Hornby Island	PDQ	11.0
2	Jerry Brower	42	Lake Stevens, WA	Pikanto	28.0
3	Martin Herbert	38	Saltspring Island	Calypso	44.7
4	Rob Mulder	51	Vancouver	Otter	54.0
5	Stan Schofield	94	Nanaimo	Zoom	55.0
6	Barry Fox	46	Victoria	V8	57.0
7	Bob Copley	76	Port Alberni	V8	63.0
8	Roger Kibble	68	Saltspring Island	Pikanto	78.0
9	Bob Gilligan	3	Nanoose Bay	Popeye	94.0
10	Gunther Yip	06	Vancouver	V8	97.0
11	Dale Chase	37	Hornby Island	Calypso	99.0
12	David Cook	22	Victoria	DC4	106.0
13	Tony Cox	157	Langley	Rubix	139.0



## Pier Pressure Summary (Coastal Cup Event #6)

Class: IOM

Date: August 19, 2017

Location: Harbour Quay in Port Alberni, BC

Host Club: West Coast Model Yachting Association (WCMYA)

Number of Entries: 13

Winds: Saturday- Light changing to strong with 1 foot + waves.

Races Completed: 13

Scoring System: HMS 1 Fleet

Race Committee & Assistants: Organizer, Registration – Stan Schofield; PRO – Lawrie Neish; Scorekeeper – Art Prufer; Buoy Boat and other help – Graham Herbert, Dale Chase, Bob Copley, Gunther Yip and others.



Nice to have the elevated viewing from the quay, but uh oh. Just after the start Graham Herbert's beautiful PDQ one-off woodie is about to be speared by port tacker Rob Mulder (51) and it appears too late to duck without masts touching. This must have worked out OK, because Graham finished with a whole lot of bullets. Thank you, Barry (46), for keeping clear. Art Prufer image.



Martin Herbert's woodie is powering upwind in #2 rig and displaying her sweet & unique hull construction. Art Prufer image.





The view from Harbour Quay looking back to Port Alberni. Art Prufer extracted this image from his video to show what the pier looks like. Harbour Quay is David Cook approved too!

**End**