

Dragonforce 65 2017 Canadian Championship Steveston, Richmond, BC

From Bob Lewis

Fifteen eager Dragonforce sailors showed up at Steveston BC at 10 AM on Sunday October 1 to contest the Canadian Championships on the waters of the Steveston Radio Controlled Sailing group

<https://sites.google.com/view/stevestonrcsailing/home>.

We were greeted with a flat calm but by the end of the afternoon, we had knocked off 16 races in mostly 6 to 12 knots pushing through the A+ rig's limits. Conqueror of the day was Chuck Lemahieu (USA 101) from Dallas Texas with a handy 11 point lead over myself, followed by Allan Gardner and Michael Kidd, all from the greater Vancouver area. These three only had 4 points between them.

A few notable travellers were Jerry Brower up from Seattle finishing in 5th and Michael Steele out from Toronto finishing in 6th but moving very fast. Steve Kibble also took the ferry from Victoria the day of the regatta and somehow got a pit crew to build a new rig in the morning.



We had originally thought that only our home fleet would be racing so the one day schedule seemed optimal but with the list of travellers suddenly developing we set up Saturday practices races with the hope of a group pub dinner that evening. No one told the weather man though so we were greeted by light drizzle and about 1 knot of wind for our 12:30 start. About 8 of us did manage a few drifting races but an early retirement to one of the many local pub style restaurants was in order. This gave the brave few a great evening of getting to know Chuck and the inside scoop on the class.

Racing started on the Sunday in glorious sunshine, at about 11 AM when a Westerly of about 5-6 knots arrived (an hour late on my schedule!). This gave us some solid A+ rig racing but as the wind speed built all the usual control issues began, nose diving downwind in gusts, lots of stalled tacks and boats and marks being hit by boats unable to steer. Measured wind speeds in the afternoon were about in the 10 knot range with lots of gusts to 15 knots observed. Most of the fleet quickly changed down to A rigs but Chuck, having not packed an A rig, had to soldier on with the A+. He had lots of control problems as you would expect but impressively, still managed to climb to the top of the scoresheet. Even with the A rigs many were having problems as you have to constantly be on your game as you get toward the top of rig wind speeds.

Thanks go to our principal race officer Lawrie Neish, CRYA President who came over from Saltspring Island and was ably assisted by the tireless Gunther Yip. Mark sets and rescues were done by Lurn Reynolds. Vern Renneberg facilitated our lunch and with the help of Marie Boyer and covered off any remaining tasks.

We also received some great sponsorship from Chuck at Dragon Sailing North America (<https://radiosailing.net/>) who generously donated a DF95 and fs i6 transmitter for us to raffle. Chuck also donated 5 spools of his special rigging line for a fleet draw, brought a bunch of spare parts and at the end sold off a bunch at a deep discount. Chuck's a great asset for the class, spreading the word on these marvelous, affordable one-design boats and making sure that we don't run out of parts and new boats.

Also generously supporting the event was Wilson Chong of Hot Sails (<http://www.hotrcsails.com/>) who donated a set of sails which were won by a pretty happy looking Al Oliver.

Radio sailing can be a wheelchair sport and we are lucky that the City of Richmond built this wheelchair accessible site and support our activities. The high grassy shoreside provides a natural viewpoint for the passing public to view our races.



Event photos can be found here:

Chuck Lemahieu <https://www.flickr.com/photos/63629329@N07/albums/72157686632542161>

Vern Renneberg: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/155571782@N02/albums/72157687490864123>

Scratchy101 hatcam videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnkZF62YCzU>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=ffeIMj9r9Uk

So, thanks again to all those who attended. I think we had a great event with a worthy champion and an opportunity for many in our own group to experience for the first time, the fun and camaraderie of a big regatta.



Most of the competitors after the end of racing
(Jerry Brower finds a place to put his coffee??)