Nute, Elms Top Bahamas Winter Championships

Tom and Carolyn Nute, San Diego, won the Bacardi Cup Series with an impressive eight point total and finishes of 1-1-1-4. Nassau's Pierre Siegenthaler and Richard Furuya took second place with 2-4-3. Tony Timm and Steve Orr from San Ancho, MI placed third with 5-1-1-7 and Jeff Lemhard and Don Kiehs, San Diego, with 3-3-1-4 were fourth. Earl Elms and 12 year old, 86 pound Carl Hallgren, rounded out the top five with 13-26.

A record number of 46 boats from the U.S., Brazil, Canada and the Bahamas took part in the 3 race Bacardi series and 45 of them stayed for the 5 race Gamblin Series. Wins were 20 knots and better for most of the races.

East Elms, main champion of the class, and currently California commercial fishermen, came from behind to win the Gamblin Series with 7-2-2-3-4 finishes. Earl's consistent sailing overcame the early lead of Doug DeSouza 1-1 when Doug retired with a 19 and 11 and Tony Timm who had finishes of 7-2-7-1 and blew it with a 19 in the final race.

Powerful Pierre Siegenthaler was fourth with 5-3-3-9 and Tom Nute took fifth with 5-3-4-20-5.

ZIMMERMANN TROPHY
The Zummackan Trophy for the best finish overall for the winter circuit was presented to Earl Elms with Jeff Lemhard second, Tom Nute third and Doug DeSouza fourth.

From: Crowder Kelly National Secretary, Bahamas

Buckles Takes SCIRA Midwinters

The notion that the SCIRA winter circuit is a slaughter in bulky breezes was quickly scuttled at the opening Midwinters, March 2-4 at Tampa, FL.

It was bitter cold and the winds were — for the most part — strong. Yet the positive side was the record attendance of 57 boats from throughout the country, Brazil and the Bahamas.

Bruce Cochran won the opener on Sunday afternoon in gusty 20 knot winds, with Earl Elms a close second. For Elms this was the first race after a one-year hiatus from Skipper Sapling. Though he had hastily rigged a new Skipper Sapling (sail to Elms' design)
flown in from Denmark, the Californian seemed at home in the sheltered cove of Old Tampa Bay.

Winds were a bit lighter for the two heats on Monday afternoon; 12.18 for the first heat trailing to 10.15 for the second. Bill Buckles took the start and was never headed, and Elms moved from third to second. Boris Osterberg broke clear in the second race of the day, only to be overhauled by Jeff Lenhart, Doug DeSousa and Tom Nute before the finish.

A 10.26 start on Tuesday for the final three heats had crews mumb from the cold. Touchingly, the wind was no more than 12.15 for the opener and the sun helped counter the chill. On points, Nute and Elms were deadlocked and Lenhart has started to move up after a disappointing 138 in the first two races of the regatta. Going into the last windward leg Lenhart trailed Elms by a

length. They split tacks and at the finish it was Lenhart and Elms, with Nute edging Buckles in third.

Winds dropped to 10 and under for the second heat. Elms, over early, was overhauled but Lenhart, Nute and Buckles could not jump to a competitive edge on each other. It was Osterberg's race with Buckles, Lenhart and Nute following.

A wind shift just prior to start of the final race left Nute and Elms tactics out of luck (A protest of the RC was disallowed). Buckles led throughout the race and Lenhart sailed a steady fifth when many of the top boats found the changing breeze light air a bummer.

Buckles dropped a sixth place of this best three to move to clearly win it all, with Lenhart and Nute not far off the pace.

The regatta was chaired by Paul Blair and sponsored by Fleet 46 and held at the Bay Harbor Inn, a new regatta facility on the waterfront linking Tampa and Clearwater. The awards banquet was equal to the second entry list as several hundred people attended to honor the leaders and warm the spirits after some frigid racing in the "tropical" south.

John Weber
Fleet 46

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