Jeff Lenhart Earns Southern Circuit Honors

Now scoring system proves successful in winter series.

Consistency is Jeff Lenhart's trademark, and it kept him on top of the Snipe Winter Circuit '84, giving him the Zimmerman Trophy. Jeff, defending champion for the Circuit, had a fifth place finish in both the Midwinters at Clearwater, won by Mark Reynolds, and the Don Q at Miami, won by Bob Hodges of the hot New Orleans fleet. Jeff came back to take a first and second in the Garthlin and Ascendant in Nassau. Mark was second overall. Having won the Midwinters, he then had to live with two very bad finishes in the Don Q, when he was ever early and had to re-start. Mark split with Jeff in Nassau, also taking a first and second place.

Weather was variable throughout the Circuit, and participation was up. Clearwater had heavier than average winds for the first two days of racing, and both Miami and Nassau had relatively light air. Both Don Q and Nassau reported record attendance.

The new SCRA low point scoring system was reported to have been enthusiastically accepted by the contestants. This was the first trial in a major series of the simplified system — 1 point for first place, and place points equal to the finish for the rest.

Midwinters

Mark Reynolds and Robert Lindsey, Mission Bay, CA, won the 45th International Snipe Midwinter Regatta March 10-13. The regatta was jointly sponsored by Clearwater Fleet 46 and the Clearwater Yacht Club. Francis Stary was general chairman.

Mark and Robert set the pace by winning the first race, and taking the championship with 47.25 points, as they also won the third and fourth races. Ed and Meredith Adams, Newport, RI, were 2.75 points back in second place, having placed second in three races. Steve and Connie Suddath of the Lake Lanier fleet were third, Jerry Thompson and Grant Hill, Alamosa Bay, CA, fourth, and defending champion Jeff Lenhart, with crew Scott Lindsey, finished fifth.

Two Canadian boats joined Snipes from all over the U.S. to make up the 43-boat fleet.

The weather was good — mostly sunny and warm, and all races were sailed at the Gulf of Mexico. Winds were medium (15-18) for the first two races, heavy (18-22) for the third and fourth, and ended light (8 to 10) for the last two races. Bob Welborn was R.C. Chairman, assisted by the Clearwater Yacht Club Race Committee.

Board member and District III Governor Sam Mollett, with son Brian crewing, won the tune-up race but faded to 14th in the overall standings, a position which was still good enough to take the Phil Blair Masters Trophy for the regatta.

The Frank Levinson Sportsmanship trophy (selection for this honor is by vote of the contestants) went to Greg Fisher, who finished sixth.

Social highlights included the final trophy presentation at the Clearwater Yacht Club and the "welcome" cocktail party given by Leo Murphy and his parents.

Don Q

Bob Hodges and Leslie Weatherly of New Orleans won the 1984 DON Q RUM KEG REGATTA in a recent fleet of 66 Snipes. They showed excellent consistency in a series of five races, no throatless, placing always among the first nine boats.

Race Committee and Regatta Chairman Jim Welborn came up with another super job and was ably assisted by Coconut Grove Sailing Club members. Our thanks to them and to the Don Q Rum Company.

The DON Q RUM KEG REGATTA was again the highlight of the Regatta (Saturday after the races) with Daquiris being served on the dock at arrival of the Snipe sailors.

Friday, March 16: First race — contrary winds 10-15 mph. Beautiful day! You have to have at least one day like this in Bisca Bay! Steve and Connie Suddath took an early lead and crossed the finish line followed by Bob Hodges, Bill Buckles, Greg Fisher and Mark Reynolds.

Second race — same excellent weather conditions. Ed and Meredith Adams won, followed by Earl Hess, Brent McComas, Mark Reynolds, and Jeff Lenhart.

Saturday, March 17: Third race — the fleet had to wait nearly two hours for the wind to settle from the east at 30 mph. A race committee made a decision that we would not have a second race that day. Steve and Connie Suddath won again followed by...

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As left: First leeward mark in the last race at the Don Q. Craig Loveck (23406) leads The Old Man (23713) and Genzo Ilka (23213) around the turn. Below: The Old Man and Am aircraft celebrate winning two races on the Circuit. (Gus Roberts photo) Bottom, right: Crewed mark rounding in the third race of the Gannett Memorial Regatta. (Freddy Maitre, Bahamas News Bureau photo)

Below: Midwinter's General Chairman Francis Soave presents first place trophy to Mark Reynolds, center, as winning crew Robert Hardie looks on. Center photo: 420 winners Diederick and Little Weatherly of New Orleans pass with the Don-Q trophy. Bottom photo: Smoke rises from the gun on the start of the Gannett Memorial third race. Was Donald Martinborough (23510) tow early? (Freddy Maitre, Bahamas News Bureau photo)
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Sponsored by Ed Adams, Augie Diaz, Charlie Bastamante and Greg Fisher.

Sunday, March 18: Fourth race — the fleet had to wait for an hour and a half for the wind to come from the southeast at 6-10 mph, but during the race it shifted to the e.g. Dave Pichard and Shawn Barkie won this race, followed by Ed Adams, Greg Fisher, Earl Eldes and Scott Myers.

Fifth race — easterly winds 10-15 mph, Gonzalo and daughter Ana Diaz won this race, followed by Jeff Lehnert, Jerry Thangvist, Tom Brennan and Mark Reynolds.

Gonzalo Diaz Sr.

Bacardi/Gamblin Series

The Royal Nassau Sailing Club hosted the annual Bacardi Cup and Scira Winter Championship held March 21-24 in Montego Bay, Nassau, Bahamas.

Of the 38 participants, 23 were from the U.S.A., three from Canada and 12 from Nassau. The visiting Siques were transported across the Gulf from Miami on the K.V. "Betty K." and their crews put up in the homes of Club members.

Edgar Muthall, Vice-Commodore at the boat Club, was Race Committee Chairman. He was assisted by Charlie deCorteau, Commodore, Cane Trups was aboard as observer. The Committee is to be congratulated on a job well done.

As the first race for the Bacardi Cup was about to begin, dark, threatening clouds arrived from the west and a front moved in. The race was sailed in shifting winds from the southwest to the northwest, and wind velocity varied from zero to 18 knots. The weather was not ideal for the second race that afternoon with wind up to 20 knots from the northwest. At the end of the day, two races have been sailed over an Olympic-type course. Jeff Lehnert led with two second-place finishes and Mark Reynolds was in second place with a first and a fourth. That evening the weary sailors were energized by the Annual Bacardi Party.

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