

Regatta Report: Dogfish Bay Team Race Regatta

April 5-6, 2008

Eighteen sailors from the WSC Portland High School sailing team made the journey north to Poulsbo, WA, last weekend to get their first taste of team racing at the Dogfish Bay Regatta. Despite cold and blustery conditions, they plunged right in (sometimes literally!), completing an exhausting schedule of 45 races against more than 60 kids from all over the northwest. By Sunday afternoon, colder, wetter, wearier, but all smiles, they had indeed gotten a big taste, not only of team racing, but of Dogfish Bay!

Team racing differs from fleet racing in that the sailors are grouped into three-boat teams and race against other three-boat teams, with the cumulative scores of all team members determining the winner. This puts the emphasis on helping fellow team members—and interfering with opposing team members—instead of individual results.

Our own Team Halibut (Elliot Drake and Jeff Carlson, Aegir Olsen and John Scrugham, and Greg Moran and Scott VanBergen) scored a very impressive 7-2 record to finish second overall, and came within one race of winning the whole thing! Kudos also go to Team Tuna (Mitchell Burke and Madeline Luce, Monica Mader and Liza Holtz, and Zack Watson and Noah Jacoby) and Team Cod (Andy Newton and Matt Michaelson, Andrew Cannard and Maggie Ruble, and Moira Lynch and Nathan Thompson) who recorded four wins each and finished 5th and 6th respectively. Great job everyone!

Thanks to Matt Mikkelsen and his crew of volunteers for the wonderful hospitality, to PRO Scott Boye, who must now hold the world record for the most sailboat races ever completed before lunch, to team racing stars Brendan Fahey and Alex Jones for sharing their expertise with the kids, and especially, to our terrific parent support team—Rose Burris, Dave and Carolyn Cannard, Catherine Crim, Sue Drake, Jan Godfrey, Bruce and Wendy Newton, Dana Olsen, Catherine Paglin, Sheri and Jeff Scrugham, and Darla and Steve VanBergen—for showing up to cheer the kids on. You guys are the greatest!

For photos and complete results, check out the WSC High School Sailing page at <http://www.willamettesailingclub.com/highschool/index.html>.

Bill Symes