

Code Flag “V” Flies at Southern Chesapeake Bay Leukemia Cup Regatta

By Rich Payne

Six of the seven boats in Fleet 15 were on the line off the mouth of the Pinkatank River for the second of the three J/105 one-design regattas in the Southern Chesapeake Bay for 2008. A total of 35 boats competed on the regatta's East Course, running windward/leeward courses in five separate fleets: PHRF A, J/105OD, PHRF B/C, Non-spinnaker A, and Non-spinnaker B. The regatta was blessed with unseasonably pleasant temperatures for July, although the Race Committee had to work hard to get in the scheduled two races on Saturday in very light conditions. In some ways, the wind conditions were a replay of the 2007 version of the regatta, with light airs on Saturday, filling in to 10 to 12 knots on Sunday.

Throughout the regatta, the 6-boat J/105 fleet was characterized by hot and heavy action on the start line, with at least one boat being over early on three out of the four starts. Overall, several things stood out. First, Mike Karn (Inevitable) continued the type of performance that he demonstrated Southern Bay Race Week, winning three out of the four races, and taking third in the fluky conditions of Race 2. Second was the strong performance by Strother Scott (Loose Cannon), who took second in three out of the four races, with a third in Race 4. These two boats took first and second places overall for the regatta, with Brad Davis (Blade Runner) finishing third.

The Leukemia Cup results had a minor effect on the standings of the Fleet 15 series overall. Mike Karn solidified his lead on first place, while Brad Davis edged past David Clark for second overall. Overall series standings are posted on the Results page of the Fleet 15 website. The “rubber” event in the series is the Stingray Point Regatta, scheduled for Labor Day weekend at Fishing Bay Yacht Club. In the meantime, four Fleet 15 boats, “Blade Runner,” “Corryvreckan,” “Flying Colors,” and “Inevitable,” are heading up to Solomons, Maryland, the weekend of 19 July to complete in the 18-boat J/105 one design class in the Screwpile Challenge Regatta sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association.