

DECEMBER 13, 2019

J/88 Crushes Sprint Race at Munroe Ocean Race

Light and shifty winds challenged the 32-boat fleet in the Sailfish Club of Florida's 63rd annual Wirth M. Munroe Ocean Race, the second event of the 2019-2020 Islands in the Stream Series. The 60-mile Classic course from Miami to Palm Beach was shortened to 50 miles because of the light conditions while the 40-mile Sprint course from Fort Lauderdale to Palm Beach was completed without change. "This year's Wirth Munroe was a true test of patience and strategy," said Race Committee Chair Tom Bowler of the Sailfish Club. "Boats that took full advantage of the Gulf Stream's push north were rewarded." Bowler said the fleet of 32 boats marked the race's highest participation level in a decade. In the shorter "Sprint Race" in PHRF 7 class, John Kearn's J/88 LOOSE CANNON from Castaways Sailing Club in Jupiter Island, FL smoked their class, winning by over one hour on corrected time to win class honors. The Organizing Authority for the race consisted of The Sailfish Club of Florida in partnership with the Storm Trysail Club and with the support of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club. The SORC, Storm Trysail Club and the Sailfish Club of Florida oversee race management. For more Wirth Munroe Race information, visit <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=9636>.

DECEMBER 13, 2019

Hamble Winter Series VII Finale

With wind from the Northeast, and a fair bit of it, the Hamble River Sailing Club PRO went to East Knoll (4H) to run the final day of the 2019 HYS Hamble Winter Series. IRC Classes 1 & 2 were dispatched upwind to William (4L) with the smaller boats, IRC Classes 3 & 4, to the slightly closer [hamblewinterseries.com](https://www.hamblewinterseries.com/) (4J). There followed a series of up and down legs between the windward marks and buoys in a southwesterly direction before everybody ended with a beat to William to finish. There was a three-way fight for the final podium places in IRC 2, with Gavin Howe's J/88 TIGRIS taking home the silver. In the J/88 Class, Howe's TIGRIS won quite handily, followed by Dirk van Beek's SABRIEL JR in second and Richard Cooper's JONGLEUR in third place. For more HYS Hamble Winter Series information, visit <https://www.hamblewinterseries.com/>.

NOVEMBER 22, 2019

Hamble Winter Series Weekend VI

The Hamble Winter Series continued on the Solent and Southampton water, hosted by the Hamble River Sailing Club. The Classes include IRC handicap as well as a one-design fleet of J/88s. The sixth weekend saw challenging fall weather conditions, and only one race was sailed due to a very light, shifty and streaky Northerly breeze blowing offshore. In the J/88 fleet, Gavin Howe's TIGRIS is leading, followed by Dirk van Beek's SABRIEL JR in second, and Richard Cooper's JONGLEUR in third place. For more Hamble Winter Series information, visit <https://www.hamblewinterseries.com/>.

OCTOBER 26, 2019

Beautiful Third Weekend at Hamble Winter Series

The Hamble Winter Series continued on the Solent and Southampton Water, hosted by the Hamble Sailing Club. The IRC boats in the main HYS Hamble Winter Series were taken to Goodall Roofing to battle it out for the Key Yachting day prizes (wine and chocolates) for the first race. The second race started around the Ryde Middles and went NE to Fastnet Insurance or East Bramble (depending on your size), then back toward the Isle of Wight, before heading NE to the Lee on the Solent shore, returning to South Ryde Middle and appropriately to a finish off Hamble Yacht Services. Continuing to extend their lead in the J/88 fleet is Gavin Howe's TIGRIS, with Dirk van Beek's SABRIEL JR in second 4 points back, and Tim Tolcher's RAGING BULL in third yet another 4 points in arrears. For more Hamble Winter Series information, visit <https://www.hamblewinterseries.com/>.

OCTOBER 21, 2019

John Sommi's Cloud 9 Triumphs at J/88 North American Championship

Fourteen J/88s competed in the 2019 North American Championship held at Larchmont Yacht Club in New York from October 16-20. Teams came from San Francisco, Canada, Youngstown, Rochester, Shelter Island and Long Island Sound. The regatta started with a coastal storm on Thursday, with steady winds of 35 knots and gusts exceeding 45 knots, leading to an abandonment of all racing for the day. Four races were held on day two in a shifty NW wind of 20 knots, gusting to 28. Laura Weyler and the team of Hijinks, winners of two previous North American Championships, took an early lead with 6 points, ahead of John Sommi's Cloud 9 (15 points) and Elizabeth Barry's Escape (17 points). Boat handling and consistency paid off, as even the smallest mistake could lead to a deep finish. This was evidenced by Bruce Stone and Nicole Breault's team on Oh Jee, who sailed three spectacular races with two bullets and one fourth but had to retire from race 3 because of a broach at the finish line, leading to a scrape with another boat. Day three started with 6-8 knots out of the West, testing everyone's light air skills. Four races were held in flat water and sunny skies. Keeping the boats moving and finding lanes of clear air paid off. At the end of the day, Cloud 9 was leading the pack with 28 points, while second to fifth place were only points apart, with Hijinks in second (32 points), Andrew Weiss's team of One Too Many moving into third (38 points), Oh Jee in fourth (39 points) and Escape in fifth (40 points). Day four brought an Easterly breeze of 8-12 knots with lumpy seas. Three races were held, and John Sommi's Cloud 9 finished the day winning the 2019 North American Championship with a total of 36 points (11 races, no throw outs). Crew included Victor Diaz de Leon, Edward Kiaer, John King, Hugh MacGillivray and Carlos Lorente Robles. Second went to Hijinks (41 points), third to Oh Jee (47 points), fourth place Escape (51 points) and fifth One Too Many (55 points). The Corinthian Trophy was awarded to Bruce Stone and Nicole Breault, who placed third. Complete results may be found at <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=6130>, and photos are available at <https://www.melissapike.com/J88-NA/n-WLGskz/i-fvQWkQ9>.

OCTOBER 18, 2019

Windier Part II of Hamble Winter Series

The Hamble Winter Series has started on the Solent and Southampton Water, hosted by the Hamble Sailing Club. The forecast for Sunday the 13th of October did not look great on Saturday night, but PRO Kathy Smalley decided to go out and have a look on Sunday morning. As the start time approached, a strong squall swept through the area, and many competitors decided to call it a day. Of the 28 teams who decided to venture out, 16 sailed the course, two retired and 10 were DNS. The PRO set a beat to Delloit Buoy, followed by a reach to keep the early starters away from those still beating. One-sided beats to maintain separation were also the call of the day, along with short downwind legs and a short fetch to the finish. The smaller boats did a short leg to QXI, while big boats went over to Prince Consort. Some boats go particularly well downwind when there is breeze around, such as the J/88. It was later confirmed that 21 knots had been seen on the J/88 TIGRIS' speedometer. Following in third & fourth were the J/88s: Richard Cooper's JONGLEUR and Dirk van Beek's SABRIEL JR. For more Hamble Winter Series information, visit <https://www.hamblewinterseries.com/>.

OCTOBER 13, 2019

Epic Sailing for American YC Fall Series

The two weekends of racing in the American Yacht Club Fall Series got excellent racing conditions. With a solid 15-25 knots of breeze, the AYC PRO and Race Committee were able to run six races over the first two days. The second weekend saw more great sailing breezes, and the fleets were, for the most part, able to sail six more races. Continuing their domination from the first weekend of racing, John Sommi's CLOUD 9 won the 11-boat J/88 fleet in a runaway victory with 10 firsts and two seconds for 12 points net. Continuing to challenge the CLOUD 9 team were Andrew Weiss & Larry Cutler's ONE TOO MANY, who took the silver with 35 points (counting all top five finishes). Climbing her way back into contention on the second weekend was Iris Vogel's DEVIATION crew, closing with a strong 2-2-3 record to take the bronze with 42 points net. Rounding out the top five were Paul Strauch's ANDIAMO and Tim Sweets GIVE'R from Canada in fourth and fifth place, respectively. For more American YC Fall series information, visit <http://www.americanyc.org>.

OCTOBER 13, 2019

Hamble Winter Series Begins

The Hamble Winter Series has started on the Solent and Southampton Water, hosted by the Hamble Sailing Club. The prospects for the first day looked bleak, but then some breeze arrived from the East. Amongst the J/88 sub-class, winning was Gavin Howe's TIGRIS, followed by Dirk van Beek's SABRIEL JR in second and Tim Tolcher's RAGING BULL in third place. For more Hamble Winter Series information, visit <https://www.hamblewinterseries.com/>.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

Fastest Guns in the West Decided at the Rolex Big Boat Series

Cool onshore temperatures, ebbing fog, flooding waters and a gathering sea breeze greeted the 79 teams gathered on San Francisco Bay to contest the final day of racing at the 55th edition of the St. Francis Yacht Club's annual Rolex Big Boat Series (September 11-15). Despite a slow start to the regatta, courtesy of higher-than-usual onshore temperatures earlier in the week, Sunday's longer-form Bay Tour course gave teams a chance to whip their horses around the West Coast's most competitive racecourse one last time. Better still, the day's course selection allowed all teams to strut their big-air skills while enjoying a stadium-style finish in front of cheering fans ashore on StFYC's Race Deck. The J/88 made its Rolex Big Boat Series debut in 2018, and the Class returned this year with even more polished skills and tactics, not to mention racecourse strategies honed during last year's regatta. Ultimately, David Britt and his Split Water (USA 78) took first-place honors, followed by Gary Panariello and his Courageous (USA 77) crew and Jim Hopp and White Shadow (USA 23), who took home second- and third-place finishes. For more information and full results, please visit the Rolex Big Boat Series' website at <https://rolexbigboatseries.com/>.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

Justin Scagnelli's J/88 Tops Seaflower Reef Race PHRF 5 Class

The 2019 edition of the Vineyard Race in Stamford, CT was a relatively fast race. The 238.0nm course stretches from Shippan Point through the currents of Plum Gut past Block Island, and on to the light tower at the entrance to Buzzard's Bay. Once reached, sailors return by leaving Block Island to starboard en route to the finish in Stamford Harbor. The shorter Seaflower Reef Race is run entirely within Long Island Sound. For the Seaflower Reef Race, in the fully-crewed PHRF 5 Class, Justin Scagnelli's J/88 ALBONDIGAS led the podium. For more Vineyard Race information, visit [https://www.stamfordyc.com/Sailing/Vineyard_Race_\(1\)](https://www.stamfordyc.com/Sailing/Vineyard_Race_(1)).

AUGUST 15, 2019

Eight Bells: Michael S. Bruno

By William Sandberg: American Yacht Club Commodore Mike Bruno, 63, passed away suddenly early on the morning of August 13 at home in Armonk, NY. Mike was a very lucky man and knew it. He had a beautiful and strong wife (Meg) and three wonderful kids (Mike, Jr, Russell and Price) he adored, and they him and more friends and admirers than one could ever imagine. He had a successful business career. After receiving his MBA from Columbia Business School in 1981, he joined Solomon Brothers where he rose to become Vice President of the Mergers and Acquisitions Group within the Finance Department. He joined Stonebridge Partners in 1987, becoming the Managing Partner in 1989. He was an accomplished sailor on the race course, sailing a series of J Boats—the latest being the J/88 Wings. Ironically 2019 may have been his most successful year—winning his class at both Charleston Race Week and Storm Trysail Block Island Week. In addition to this year, he was a two-time winner of the J/122 North Americans, New York YC Race Week winner, and 2016 Key West Race Week. Along with American Yacht Club, he was a member of New York Yacht Club and Storm Trysail Club. Most of all he was, perhaps, the most generous person I have ever known. Need a house in Florida to use an auction item to raise money for the US Olympic and Paralympic Sailing Teams? You got

it. A spectator boat for viewing? Of course. Rooms for wounded vets to attend a regatta? Done. And the list goes on. As Commodore of American, he played host to the US Sailing Disabled Championships in 2008. When approached about hosting a disabled regatta in the future, not surprisingly Mike quickly made it happen. Thus was born the Robie Pierce One Design Disabled Regatta, where Mike even served on the Race Committee. Most recently he served on the Board of and twice chaired the annual fundraiser for Freedom Waters Foundation in Naples, FL, which enhances lives of individuals with special needs and veterans by providing therapeutic boating experiences. A memorial service will be held at American YC in Rye at 1400 hours, Friday, August 16. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Mike's name to Pediatric Cancer Research at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Attn: Rachel Flannery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Office of Development, P.O. Box 27106, New York, NY 10087 or online at <http://mskcc.convio.net/goto/michaelsbrunojr>. I will miss Mikey terribly as will many others. You were a very special man, Mike Bruno. Sail fast.

JULY 22, 2019

Grand Tradition of Larchmont Race Week

The month of July in western Long Island Sound has traditionally brought light and shifty winds. For the past few years, however, Larchmont's annual Race Week, held the third week in July, has enjoyed atypical conditions providing excellent sailing. And, while the sailing for the 121st Larchmont Race Week on July 13-21 was keenly competitive, the light and variable winds returned to heighten the challenge. The recurring theme of comments made by the competitors was that, to win, you had to "connect the dots" of puffs and shifts. The J/88s competed in the PHRF Spinnaker 1 division, won by Iris Vogel's Deviation. Paul Strauch's Andiamo cracked the top three in third, and Nicolas Delcourt's Oh Jee!! Made the fourth position. For complete results, visit https://yachtscoring.com/event_results_cumulative.cfm?eID=6240.

JULY 21, 2019

Kirsty & David Apthorp's J/88 J-Dream is 2019 J/88 UK National Champion

The J/Boats family bid a fond farewell to Paul Heys who 'sailed away' in February this year. Before the start of racing, the 60-boat fleet gathered in the vicinity of the proposed location for the Paul Heys Memorial Buoy for a special tribute. Whilst observing a minute's silence, Paul Heys' ashes were released in a seashell by his wife Marie-Claude, assisted by Paul's daughters, Gemma and Natalie. Over £25,000 has already been raised, covering the cost and maintenance of the Paul Heys Memorial Buoy for 10 years. The target of £34,000, will ensure that the buoy will be raced around by Paul Hey's grandchildren and those of the J/Boat families. To make a donation: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/paulheys>. Martin Dent said, "It was fantastic when we came in and congregated. I looked at the other boats, and teams were standing in rows on deck to attention. It was very moving. We got to our feet as well in honour of an absolute legend. I am glad that we are fund raising to put a mark in to celebrate Paul. I hope the mark will be a place of much carnage....if ever we are doing a mark rounding there, we will leave the drop late, rodeo drop, and possibly fling it in with borderline rights in honour

of the greatest rogue. Paul Heys has made more impact on sailing than any other single person, and is responsible for so many Solent sailors, including my family and team Jelvis. I miss him." The Landsail Tyres J-Cup is an annual event in which all J/Boats are invited to attend, to race in one-design classes or under IRC. The 2019 edition was hosted by the Royal Southern Yacht Club with racing in the Solent. Sixty teams racing 10 different examples of the J/Boats range were in action with skippers from Great Britain, France, the Netherlands and the United States. All nine races were completed over three days of thrilling racing for over 300 sailors. Conditions ranged from moderate to fresh and frightening. Mother Nature saved her best until last with 25 knots of breeze in clear blue skies for the last race of a fantastic regatta. Competitors enjoyed the use of modern facilities at the Royal Southern Yacht Club, including the spacious Upper Bar with elevated views over the Hamble River. In the dining room, North Sails delivered a video debrief, a master class on heavy airs trimming and boat handling from: Dave Lenz, Ruairidh Scott, Jeremy Smart and Charlie Cumbley. Kirsty & David Aphorp's J/88 J-Dream was on the race podium for all nine races, including six bullets, to retain the J/88 National Championship for a third year in a row. Gavin Howe's Tigris scored all but one podium finish, including a race win to finish the regatta in second place. Tim Tolcher's Raging Bull saved their best until last scoring a 2-1-4 on the final day to finish on the podium in third. Results Landsail Tyres J-Cup: https://yachtscoring.com/event_results_cumulative.cfm?eID=6117

JULY 6, 2019

Exile Prevails in Chicago to Waukegan Race

A fleet of nearly 100 boats gathered for a sprint of 30.0nm from Chicago to Waukegan, IL. The first fleet started in a light easterly of 5-6 knots, but the subsequent starts were in nearly calm breeze. After three fleets could not fully clear the starting line, the Chicago Yacht Club's Race Committee was forced to postpone the starts of the remaining fleets. Subsequently, as the next set of classes took off in the building breeze, it was clear the last class to start was going to have the greatest handicap advantage overall. In PHRF 4 Class, the J/88s nearly swept: Andy & Sarah Graff's EXILE won, with Ben Marden's BANTER in second place. For more Chicago to Waukegan Race information, visit https://yachtscoring.com/event_results_cumulative.cfm?eID=9446.

JULY 6, 2019

Slow 81st Queens Cup Race

The 81st challenge of one of the most storied yacht races on the Great Lakes—the 90.0nm race called the Queen's Cup—may have set a record for dropouts. This year's overnight race across Lake Michigan departed from Milwaukee, WI for St. Joseph, MI on June 28 in very light winds, hosted by Milwaukee's South Shore Yacht Club and St. Joseph River Yacht Club. In PHRF 6 Class, the J/88s dominated. First was Ben Marden's BANTER, followed by Andrew Graff's Exile in second. The winning boat averaged 3.5 knots. For more SSYC Queen's Cup Race information, visit <https://www.ssysc.org/queens-cup/queens-cup-home>.

JULY 6, 2019

Light Round The Island Race

The 2019 edition of the Round The Island Race in the United Kingdom, hosted by the Island Sailing Club in Cowes, Isle of Wight, was one of the slowest ever for most of the fleet. The challenging 60.0nm race goes around the Isle of Wight. The forecast of sun and no more than 15 knots of wind was unlikely to create record-breaking conditions for the 1,253 entries. Nevertheless, with an ebbing tide and early morning east-south-easterly breeze, the fleet enjoyed a downwind spinnaker start, so the first leg to the Needles was reasonably swift for most of the fleet. However, the forecasted easing of the breeze to zero knots and a change from the easterly to a light westerly around 1400 to 1600 hours took its toll on the fleet. As it turned out, heading away from the island into more stable breeze was the best option. The J/88s had three finishers. Winning was Sam Cooper's TIGRIS, second was Richard Cooper's JONGLEUR, and third was Dirk Van Beek's SABRIEL JR. For more Round Island Race information, visit http://www.roundtheisland.org.uk/web/code/php/main_c.php?section=home.

JUNE 29, 2019

Wings Rocks Block Island Race Week

Legendary musician Jimmy Buffett made a surprise appearance at the final awards party for Block Island Race Week, presented by Margaritaville. Buffett took the stage to address the huge gathering of sailors enjoying Margaritaville margaritas and LandShark lager and expressed total enthusiasm for the regatta his lifestyle company sponsored this year. "I think Margaritaville is Block Island right now," said Buffett, who performed an impromptu concert to cap off Margaritaville Race Day. "I always thought it would be kind of cool to have a regatta that was part of Margaritaville. Thank you Block Island for being the very first one." Buffett, performing solo, then launched into renditions of 'Son of a Sailor', 'Margaritaville' and 'Five O'Clock Somewhere' to the delight of the massive crowd jammed into the big top tent. Wings, owned by Mike Bruno of Armonk, NY, was dominant in the J/88 fleet with seven bullets and a couple seconds. Wings has also won the J/88 Midwinter Championship, Charleston Race Week and the American Yacht Club Spring Series this year. "It was another great regatta for the team, and we were very pleased. We've just got the boat really dialed in, and our crew work is great," Bruno said. "Stu Johnstone deserves a lot of credit because his tactics were impeccable." For complete event details, visit www.blockislandraceweek.com.

JUNE 10, 2019

John Leahey's Dutch is Top J/88 at Chicago NOOD

The Helly Hansen Chicago NOOD wrapped up Sunday, June 9 in a shroud of fog, again. Morning rain and fog saw the remaining scheduled races cancelled on the third day of the regatta. Spirits were high, however, as competitors gathered at Chicago Yacht Club for the evening's awards party. In the six-boat J/88 fleet, John Leahey's Dutch was the top team. "Overall, we had a great time with some tough competition from Exile (Andy & Sarah Graff) and Windsong (Tim Wade), who were just a few points behind," says the skipper from Colorado. "We were looking for more competition (Sunday), but we were happy to take the win." Sailing with Leahey was

Connor Coorgard (Blaine, MN), who served as tactician. "Connor was really good at playing the shifts. We started a race (Sunday), and we were way ahead before the race was abandoned. He had us going really fast, which definitely paid off in the end." For complete results, visit https://yachtscoring.com/event_results_cumulative.cfm?eID=6037.

JUNE 3, 2019

Exile Dominates COLORS Regatta

The COLORS Regatta was hosted by Columbia Yacht Club in Chicago, IL from June 1-2. 1. Six J/88s completed five races, and it was Andy & Sarah Graff's Exile that took line honors in four. Adding a third, they notched just 7 points to take first place. John & Jordan Leahey's Dutch earned most of the runner-up positions in each race to come in second overall with 13 points. Ben Marden's Banter was the only other boat to get a bullet and placed third overall with 15 points. For complete results, visit https://yachtscoring.com/event_results_cumulative.cfm?eID=6244.

JUNE 3, 2019

Deviation Edges Wings at Cedar Point One Design Regatta

Eight J/88s competed at the Cedar Point One Design Regatta hosted by Cedar Point Yacht Club in Westport, CT from June 1-2. Six races were held, and in the end, just one point separated the top two boats. Iris Vogel's Deviation won the duel, posting scores of 2,2,1,1,[6],2 for 8 net points. Hot on her heels was Mike Bruno's Wings, whose 1,1,[5],2,4,1 gave him the silver position. Kevin Marks' Velocity took third with 16 points. For complete results, visit https://yachtscoring.com/event_results_cumulative.cfm?eID=6099.

MAY 6, 2019

Wings Escapes at American Yacht Club Spring Series

The second and final weekend of the 40th Annual American Yacht Club Spring Series in Rye, NY concluded May 5 in the same way it started on April 27-28 – with challenging weather that included little wind on Saturday and heavy rain on Sunday. Seventy boats competed in nine classes. Wings, helmed by Mike Bruno, placed first in the six-boat J/88 division and continued building on a hot streak that dates back to January with a win at the J/88 Midwinter Championship in St. Petersburg, FL. Wings edged out Elizabeth Barry's Escape to win in the South Course following a tie-breaker (each at 6 points). Kevin Marks' Velocity rounded out the top three with 10 points. For complete results, visit https://www.yachtscoring.com/event_results_cumulative.cfm?eID=6132.

MAY 4, 2019

Warsash Spring Series Weekend VI Report

The Warsash Sailing Club that has been hosting their annual Helly Hansen Warsash Spring Series canceled racing on Saturday as winds gusted well into the 30+ knots range. As Sunday dawned,

it was still quite windy, but it had calmed down enough for the fleet to enjoy great racing on the Southampton Water and the Solent. Continuing to lead the J/88 class is Gavin Howe's TIGRIS with all firsts in eight races, tossing out two firsts. Second is Dirk & Dianne Van Beek's SABRIEL JR. with 12 points. Then, third is Richard Cooper's JONGLEUR with 83 points. The J-Sprit class still sees Howe's J/88 TIGRIS leading. SABRIEL JR continues in second. For more HELLY HANSEN Warsash Spring Series information, visit <https://warsashspringseries.org.uk/2019/index.htm>.

APRIL 19, 2019

Warsash Spring Series Weekend V Report

Conditions varied dramatically over the two days, with medium wind on the first day, followed by a full-on foam-up of 20 knots plus on the second day. Air and sea temperature were also a factor, as mid-April is about as cold as the water gets in the Solent. Added to a bitter easterly breeze, it was a weekend for wrapping up and keeping warm. With six races, the J/88 fleet continues to see Gavin Howe's TIGRIS topping the class with all bullets for 5 points. Now that "toss races" are factored in, Dirk & Dianne Van Beek's SABRIEL JR still hold on to second place, while Richard Cooper's JONGLEUR hangs on to third position. The J-Sprit class still sees Gavin Howe's J/88 TIGRIS leading. J/88s occupy the entire top five. SABRIEL JR is second, Kirsty & David Apthorp's J/88 J-DREAM is third, Tim Tolcher's RAGING BULL is fourth, and Richard Cooper's JONGLEUR is fifth. For more HELLY HANSEN Warsash Spring Series information, visit <https://warsashspringseries.org.uk/2019/index.htm>.

APRIL 15, 2019

Strong Close at Charleston Race Week

Sperry Charleston Race Week concluded April 14 in spectacular fashion with strong winds producing exciting action. Mike Bruno said following Friday's racing (April 12) that he's been jinxed at Sperry Charleston Race Week, suffering problems that prevented podium finishes in 2018 and 2017. The Armonk, NY resident thought his bad luck would be extended when his J/88 Wings was ruled OCS in Race 9 and had to restart. "We came into the day (Sunday) saying we were going to be conservative and not make any mistakes then we got tangled up with another boat at the start and right out of the gate we were over early," said Bruno, who did manage to battle back to finish sixth in the 10-boat fleet. "We were pretty glum going into the last race. I thought we'd blown it again." However, there was a happy ending as Wings redeemed itself big-time in Race 10, which was held in 20-22 knot south-southwesterly winds with gusts approaching 30. Wings rounded the first weather mark in sixth, then moved up a couple places by the downwind rounding. Bruno and crew turned it on from there, passing the remaining three boats to get the gun. That victory in the final contest of the three-day regatta gave Wings a two-point victory in the J/88 fleet over Albondigas (Justin Scagnelli, West Nyack, NY), leading Bruno to breathe a huge sigh of relief. "What an exciting way to win a regatta. To come from behind like that was thrilling, and I feel fantastic," Bruno said. "We're pretty darn good in heavy air, so we were really happy when the breeze really came on for that last race. It was really exhilarating blasting downwind in planing mode and passing boat after boat." Bruno noted the average age of his crew is 60 with bow man Jonathan Asch checking in at 66. Stuart Johnstone

called tactics, Chris Morgan trimmed the main while Steve Lopez and Tim Randall teamed to trim the headsails aboard Wings. For complete event details, visit <https://charlestonraceweek.com/>.

APRIL 12, 2019

Warsash Spring Series Weekend IV Report

The fourth weekend is in the books for the Warsash Sailing Club's HELLY HANSEN Warsash Spring Series. The fleet was blessed, again, with good enough conditions to get in one more race for the IRC handicap fleets. The forecast for the day was not exciting, E to SE, 4-7 knots. This eventually turned out to ENE to S and the back to ESE, with 3-5 knots for most of the day and reaching nearly 8 knots for the last half of the last race of the day. With four races under their collective belts in the J/88 fleet, Gavin Howe's TIGRIS continues to dominate with all bullets for 4 points. However, the top five has jumbled a bit since a few boats had "no show DNCs" posted in their scorelines. Sitting in second is Dianne & Dirk Van Beek's SABRIEL JR with 31 points, third is Richard Cooper's JONGLEUR with 33 points, fourth is Kirsty & David Apthorp's J-DREAM with 36 points, and fifth is Tim Tolcher's RAGING BULL with 38 points. The J-sprit class continues to be dominated by the J/88s and by Gavin Howe's TIGRIS, in particular, as she took her fourth win in four weekends. The next two spots have flip-flopped. Sitting in second is now Dirk & Dianne Van Beek's J/88 SABRIEL JR with 31 points, following in third by Kirsty & David Apthorp's J/88 J-DREAM with 33 points. This class will see a significant shake-up on the leaderboard once the toss race comes into effect after race six, as several teams have "no show 25's" counting in their scorelines. For more HELLY HANSEN Warsash Spring Series information, visit <https://warsashspringseries.org.uk/2019/index.htm>.

APRIL 4, 2019

Warsash Spring Series Weekend II Report

The second weekend is in the books for the Warsash Sailing Club's famous HELLY HANSEN Warsash Spring Series. To date, the J/88s have three races. Leading is Gavin Howe's TIGRIS with all bullets for 3 points. Second Richard Cooper's JONGLEUR with a 3-2-3 for 8 points. Third Kirsty & David Apthorp's J-DREAM with a 4-3-4 for 11 points. Then, rounding out the top five is Dianne & Dirk Van Beek's SABRIEL JR and Tim Tolcher's RAGING BULL, in fourth & fifth, respectively. The all-encompassing J/Sprit division is dominated by J/88s. They hold all top three spots: first is Howe's TIGRIS, second Apthorp's J-DREAM, and third Cooper's JONGLEUR. For more HELLY HANSEN Warsash Spring Series information, visit <https://warsashspringseries.org.uk/2019/index.htm>.

MARCH 30, 2019

HELLY HANSEN Warsash Spring Series Starts Up

The Warsash Sailing Club on the Hamble River in the United Kingdom started its HELLY HANSEN Warsash Spring Series. The WSC PRO paid tribute to Paul Heys of J/U.K. After two races in the J/88 fleet, Gavin Howe's TIGRIS is leading with two bullets. Then, Richard Cooper's JONGLEUR

posted a 3-2, which puts them in second for 5 points, and David & Kirsty Apthorp's J-DREAM has a 4-3 tally to hold third position. In the newly-created J/Sprit Division, it is Howe's J/88 TIGRIS leading, followed by the Apthorp's J/88 J-DREAM in second and Richard Cooper's J/88 JONGLEUR in third. For more HELLY HANSEN Warsash Spring Series information, visit <https://warsashspringseries.org.uk/2019/index.htm>.

FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Sun and Vogel Shine on the St. Petersburg NOOD

It was another beautiful day for the final races of the Helly Hansen National Offshore One Design (NOOD) Regatta St. Petersburg. Once the sea breeze filled in, racing got underway and most Classes completed two races for a regatta total of eight to nine races. Top marks in the J/88 fleet went to Iris Vogel and the crew of Deviation, who struggled with shifty conditions and battled through a four-way tie for second place on the first day of racing. The team found its groove over the next two days and focused on boatspeed. "In this fleet, we had to be just fast," said Vogel. "Everyone is so close and so good. One mistake, and you go from first to fifth. Our goal is to get a good start and go as fast as we can and hold on to it." For complete event details, visit <https://www.sailingworld.com/tags/helly-hansen-nood-regatta-st-petersburg>.

J/88 (6 Boats)

1. Deviation, Iris Vogel, New Rochelle, NY 3-3-4-2-1-1-3-1-3;21
2. Dutch, John & Jordan Leahey, Denver, CO 2-5-5-1-2-2-4-5-2;28
3. Whirlwind, William Purdy, New York, NY 4-4-1-3-3-5-2-3-4;29

FEBRUARY 01, 2019

Three Bridge Fiasco

The 2019 edition of the Three Bridge Fiasco in San Francisco, CA will go down in the history books as one of the nicest in recent memory—sunny skies, gentle northeast winds of 4 to 12 knots and warm 72 F temperatures. The Singlehanded Sailing Society welcomed a fleet of 334 boats that were entered as singlehanded or doublehanded teams (most were sailing doublehanded). It is believed the race, a 21.0nm dash around three marks is considered the largest shorthanded sailing event in the world. Starting off Golden Gate YC on the south shore of the Bay, the sailors can choose which direction to go (clockwise or counter-clockwise). The marks are Blackaller Buoy near the south pylon of the Golden Gate Bridge at the westward opening of the Bay, around Red Rock Island near the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge in north Bay, and around the Bay Bridge by rounding Treasure & Yerba Buena Islands. Since the race is a reverse start (pursuit) race, the start time for each boat is based on its PHRF rating, with slowest boats starting first at 0900 hrs and the fastest at -102 starting two hours later. The Class

2 Singlehanded Spin PHRF 108 and Under class was won in convincing fashion by Jim Hopp's J/88 WHITE SHADOW, finishing at 14:36:41, 23 minutes ahead of the next boat in class. For more Three Bridge Fiasco information, visit <http://sfbaysss.org/main/>.

JANUARY 27, 2019

Mike Bruno's Wings Soars at J/88 Midwinter Championship

Six J/88s escaped the Polar Vortex to compete in the J/88 Midwinter Championship, a part of J/Fest hosted by St. Petersburg Yacht Club in Florida. Mike Bruno's Wings from Armonk, NY tallied 9 net points in 8 races after counting only firsts and seconds (dropping a fifth in race four). With team Mike Booker, Stu Johnstone, Chris Morgan, Tim Randall and Stephen Yip, Wings secured five bullets and relished the breezy conditions on Friday and Saturday, when four races per day were completed. Rain and unstable weather prevented any contests on Sunday. Iris Vogel's Deviation took second place with 19 points, including two first-place finishes on day one. William Purdy's Whirlwind also notched 19 points, but had to settle for the bronze position.

Final results:

Wings, Mike Bruno, 1 -2 -1 -[5] -1 -1 -1 -2 ; 9

Deviation, Iris Vogel, [5] -1 -4 -1 -4 -4 -2 -3 ; 19

Whirlwind, William Purdy, 4 -4 -2 -3 -3 -2 -[5] -1 ; 19

Gaicho, Dave Tufts, 2 -5 -3 -2 -5 -[6] -3 -5 ; 25

Exile, Andy Graff, 3 -3 -[6] -6 -2 -5 -4 -4 ; 27

Dutch, John & Jordan Leahey, [6] -6 -5 -4 -6 -3 -6 -6 ; 36

Complete results may be found at

https://yachtscoring.com/event_results_cumulative.cfm?eID=6071, and photos are available on the J/88 Class Facebook page.