

Mardi Gras Plagued with Breakdowns

Five of the seven scheduled races were sailed at the '97 Mardi Gras Regatta hosted by New Orleans Yacht Club on February 8 & 9. Temperatures and stiff north breezes brought the wind chill down to 29°, and brought out the postponement flag. Three races were eventually sailed Saturday in 15-22 kts and to no one's surprise, Ash Beatty came out of the blocks fast with two bullets. Bishop Stieffel's hiking stick popped out four times in race one, sending him into the drink once. Zane Yoder and Bishop traded 3's and 2's in the first two races. After leading race 3 around the triangle, Ash's hiking stick broke, forcing him to sail from the back of the boat and causing him to capsize at the last leeward mark, costing him four boats. Todd Edwards broke his tiller in half as he left the dock for the first race and though he was able to borrow another, he never fully recovered, capsizing twice during Saturday's races.

Choppy 8-12 kts for race 4 Sunday morning would draw the pack a little closer. Over early at the pin somehow paid off for Bishop when he looped around took three sterns, found a hole, then a shift, then the lead within three minutes of the gun. Rounding the top mark second, Todd quickly took the lead from Bishop, then as though he didn't already have enough problems, his hiking stick snapped. Eric Faust got it in gear and led the pack at the leeward mark, but lost three boats halfway up the last beat to one of those shifts on "the other side".

Eric would get his in the last race, taking the start and the first shift all the way around the Olympic course. Tommy Meric and Tommy Harris made him work for it though, closing to 3 boatlengths at the last mark.

Top Woman Joanne Weberlein
Top Master Tommy Meric

PL	Skipper	Total	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5
1	Bishop Stieffel	6.50	3	2	1	1	(9)
2	Ash Beatty	8.50	1	1	5	2	(8)
3	Eric Faust	12.75	(9)	4	4	4	1
4	Zane Yoder	14.00	2	3	2	(DNS)	7
5	Tommy Meric	19.00	6	7	3	(9)	3
6	Todd Edwards	21.00	5	8	(DNF)	6	2
7	Tommy Harris	23.00	8	(10)	6	5	4
8	Clinton Edwards	27.00	10	9	(DNC)	3	5
9	Guy Brierre	27.00	7	5	8	7	(DNF)
10	Jerry Blouin	33.00	4	6	7	(DNC)	DNC
11	Joanne Weberlein	35.00	(11)	11	10	8	6
12	Bonner Cordelle	41.00	(12)	12	9	10	10
13	Ann Edwards	64.00	(DNC)	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC
13	Trin Ollinger	64.00	(DNC)	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC
13	Ellis Ollinger	64.00	(DNF)	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC