

## **The Dunedin Cup with Cats and All Kinds of Watercraft 2005**

**By Terry Fondrk** 10-16-05

The Dunedin Cup Regatta (October 15, 2005) was the perfect one day regatta of the year. The partnership of the big boys (**The Dunedin Boat Club** and the **Kiwanis Club of Dunedin**) brought resources we don't often see at regattas these days. TBCSI (**Tampa Bay Catamaran Sailors Inc.**) ran our own venue same as the other seven Classes of water craft (Dragon Boat, Ensign/Daysailor Class, Windlasses Pram & Sunfish, Amateur/Advanced Kayaks, Mono Hull Cruisers, Mono Racing Class and Non-spinaker class).

The first meeting of the groups on Friday evening was at the Pre-race party at Knology Baseball Park, home of the Montreal Blue Jays. The big signs and tent setup at the concession area provided a place for the free beer and food. A fun time was had by all mixing of the different yet similar sailors around the tiki stands and tables for pre-registration, skippers meetings, and raffle announcements.

Race day weather was perfect for all. The temp started at about 75° during early Saturday morning as the 14 Catamarans set up. Then the temp rose to a very comfortable 85° for a cloudless sunny day. The water temperature was a very nice 82°. In the sheltered bay, the waters were flat and the winds were 9 to 13 mph out of the NNE – N. Out in the Gulf of Mexico where the Cats ran with the big Monohull Coursers the winds were 9 to 17 mph NNE – NNW with a 2-3 foot chop.

Our Race Committee headed by **John Fondrk** set a great course mixing it up between windward leeward Gates and the old style ABG course. **Margaret Gutierrez** helped John on the committee boat while **Brad Dunson** did the flags. **Chad Beaty** was a great help driving the committee boat and displaying the course numbers. **Seth Stern** was an immense help using his Wave Runner setting marks and resetting marks all day. At "A" mark were the party cheering group of **Ryan Rager and Angela** on their new booze cruise mark boat with helpers **Bob & Cheryl Johnson** and **Star Helmbrecht** who also helped as beach crew.

All of the beach work, including Registration, Handicapping, Skippers Meeting and Scoring were performed by **Judy Fondrk**. All the work and none of the fun on the water. Boy what would we do without her expertise?

Many thanks go to **Glen Steinke** and crew of **Sail Honeymoon** rentals for their help and the use of their grounds for the Catamaran and Kayak headquarters. Their food at the concession with the help of Tina was superb as usual.

The first race had the big boats going the Hamburger route #3 ABGA finish while the little boats (High Portsmouth) did the #1 hotdog course AGA Finish. It was a blast finding all the marks the first time around in the great winds with bumps.

The second race was #3 twice around ABGABGA finish for the big boats while the little ones did a ABGA Finish which presented everyone with a wild reach at least once.

The third race was # 3 for the Low Boats and High Boats.

The fourth race had some boats retiring and one screwing up badly by starting 12 seconds before the horn. Both classes had a #3 course.

Our Finishers for the Low Portsmouth were **Jennifer Lindsay** on her fast as lightning and just as light A Cat. Second place went to the team of **Tim Imlah & Dan Vanderipe** on a Hobie 20. They along with Jennifer remembered the instructions given at the skippers meeting during race #2. Third place went to **Dennis Bedgood** & his super crew **Lou Changsut** on the Nacra 6.0. Go Lou start that trophy cabinet.

Our Finishers for High Portsmouth were the super fast team of **John Hoopes** and **Ashley King** on the Hobie 16. They could do no wrong and the boat smoked. Second place went to **Tom Hirst** on a Super Cat 15, even though he seemed to struggle during this regatta. Third went to me, **Terry Fondrk**, on a Dart 18 that was doing better than its skipper who couldn't tell time.

The wind-up party and trophy presentation was at Edgewater Park next to the **Dunedin Boat Club**. They did a great job with all the different booths to visit including ones that we could purchase plenty of good food and beverages. The live band kept the spirit high before and after the presentations where John was the presenter who handed out the iron to the Tampa Bay Catamaran Sailors.

Again I would like to thank The City of Dunedin, The Kiwanis Club, The Dunedin Boat Club, all the sponsors and supporters like **Vice Mayor Julie Scales** and all those who helped put on a great regatta. Next year how could it be even better? And all for a good cause of a Boundless Playground. Our Cat venue alone donated over \$250 from our Registration Fees.

Don't miss the Photos of the Skippers Meeting, Dunedin Causeway boat beach, Party and Trophies at Edgewater Park at the <http://www.tampabaycatsailors.com> web site.