

## **2008 Comet North American Championships**

hosted by Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club (SSYC)

On the weekend of June 21-22 many top sailors gathered at SSYC in Oceanport, NJ to participate in the 2008 Comet North American Championships. Sailors from SSYC Comet Fleet #35 made a great showing as did several other sailors from Maryland and as far as Bermuda. SSYC Vice Commodore Leighton Waters welcomed regatta participants along with Comet Class Association President Wick Dudley who provided a brief and upbeat State of the Union on the Association.

Racers were greeted with light and shifty winds on day one and strong and sometimes unmanageable winds on day two providing the racers with a broad spectrum of conditions in which to test their skills. The regatta brought out many spectators including SSYC Past Commodore and Comet Class statesman and decorated past champion Ed Ryan.

Day one belonged to Stephen Widdis and crew Jessica Gruskos who dominated the race course with consistent top finishes. Day two of racing saw Rudy Bailey from Bermuda and his crew Emily Rodgers bringing pressure for the top spot. In true form, Talbott and Lee Ingram fended off many challengers and came from behind on day two to clinch the best 6 of 7 race series to take top honors. They retain the trophy they won last year for another year. The racing results and final standings are located under the "Sailing" / "Racing & Regattas" tabs on the SSYC website [www.ssydc.us](http://www.ssydc.us).

The regatta ran very well thanks to the hard work of many including the event organizers: Fleet Captain Jim Brinkman and Comet Class Association Vice President of Championship Regattas Dave Rodgers. Thanks also to Talbott Ingram who did a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes making phone calls, recruiting volunteers, and talking up the regatta with other Comet fleets.

Compliments were aplenty regarding the quality of the races thanks to the skill of our PRO Jeff Jacobi who was ably assisted by Tony Keator, Anita Waters-Buchanan and Pris Gettis. Safety on the course, particularly on day two which presented a few breakdowns and rescues, was the focus of a top fleet of safety boats and crews including: Mike Neubelt, Chuck Bertrand, Mike Lyttle, Cathy Tamblyn, John Quinn, Bill & Will Cosulich, Dave Whittle and Leighton Waters. On-course photo journalism was also provided courtesy of Leighton.

Off-course, belly's were kept full and thirsts quenched through the efforts of Bob Slook, Jim Widdis and Jim Brinkman who coordinated the breakfasts, lunches and Saturday night dinner, respectively. Anita Waters, Sr. and Susan Widdis did the serving during the day and kept the kitchen and the club organized and ship shape. Special thanks go to several who provided housing to visiting sailors including: Jim and Susan Widdis, Dave and Cindy Gruskos, Bob and Debbi Slook and Talbott and Lee Ingram.

The event served to showcase the greatness of our club and our membership to many visitors from the sailing community. All involved, including our racers and anyone we erroneously failed to mention above, please stand proud and take a bow and thanks for joining us.

Leighton Waters  
SSYC Vice Commodore