



Saturday, January 6, 2018

Today was the combined Green Flash Sailing Flyboy's New Years Regatta which we abandoned last Monday (1/1/18) due to high wind and waves (a good move!) and the regular first January VSS Race Day. It was almost JAPSDIP except it was pretty cold, around 59° F at the pier. The wind was NNE around 10 knots with moderate gusts (maximum 14 knots) for the afternoon.

Things went awry at the skippers' meeting when I was obsessing about the possibility of the northern mark ("VSS G") of the Start-Finish line sinking and I told those present that should it be missing they should pass the remaining mark close aboard to starboard and record the finish time. I should not have done that. What I didn't remember was that I had rewritten the Sailing Instructions a week ago and offered the missing finish mark remedy mandated by the US Sailing Prescriptions. What's worse I sent the revised SI to everyone on my mailing list, including myself. There is a problem with changing the SI verbally on land like that. The Rules state that the verbal SI changes can only be made on the water over the radio, so the published SI are binding.

([http://www.greenflashsailing.com/VSS Races/VSS SI.pdf](http://www.greenflashsailing.com/VSS_Races/VSS_SI.pdf), see section 4)

Seven boats came out, which was the best turnout for VSS this season. We fortunately had both Opalina and Bella Mer out, something that has been rare recently. I sent the fleet around our 5.07 NM long equilateral triangle course counterclockwise, which produced a starboard tack close reach, a mostly port tack broad reach and a beat back to "Jose", the start-finish mark. We (Spray) started behind Opalina, Bella Mer, Joy, and Seas The Day and in front of Fruition and Raegan-e. We got off to a pretty good start and quickly gained on all the front runners, most notably Seas The Day. By the time we got to the first mark and set the spinnaker, we were close behind Joy and Opalina. We sailed a bit lower than the boats in front and passed several. After a gybe and a short hitch on starboard we gybed back in what looked like a cloud of boats heading for the second mark, "Maria". Somehow we avoided a foul and rounded the mark just behind Fruition, but to windward. The spinnaker takedown was a real scramble, but somehow it came down without shrimping. We were able to head up and slip by Fruition while Raegan-e tacked away behind us onto starboard, shortly to be followed by Fruition. We were to windward of all the other port tackers and sailing on the lifted tack. Raegan-e and Fruition sailed a while on starboard with Raegan-e slipping by Fruition and then tacking behind and to weather of us. After while it looked as if we could tack to starboard and cross her to take the lead, so we did. Raegan-e was not fetching the finish line so we continued on until I thought we could fetch and we tacked, thinking that Raegan-e would have to make two more tacks to finish. That didn't work as we failed to fetch the mark due to a right hand shift and the same shift lifted Raegan-e enough for her to cross us and sail by the mark, leaving it to PORT, which was the wrong side according to my announcement at the skippers' meeting. We crossed a few seconds later, leaving the mark to starboard. There was great joy on Spray but in a few minutes I began to have grave doubts that we were right and even began arguing with some of our crew about it. Unfortunately, I was right, so here are the results:

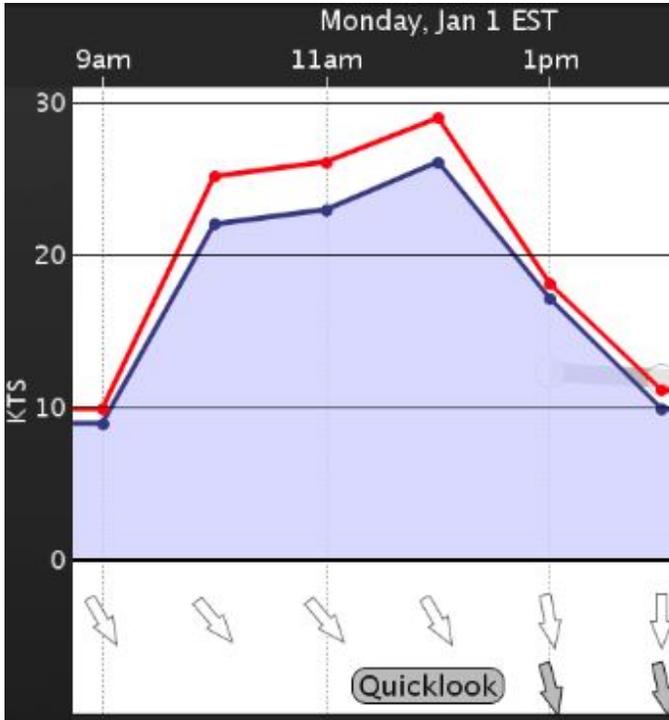
2017-18 VSS Fall Series, Race 7					
	12/16/17	Start	01:00 PM	Pursuit Race	5.07 NM
Finish		Wind=	10 knots		
	Skipper	Yacht Name	Sail No.	Yacht Type	Finish Time
1	Rolf Hahn	Raegan-e	67818	Olson 30	02:08:25 PM
2	John Lynch	Spray	311	C&C 38	02:08:35 PM
3	Ben Rotteveel	Fruition	30707	PJ 43	02:10:06 PM
4	Brad Vaughan	Seas The Day	46	Bavaria Vision 46	02:11:05 PM
5	Tony Mirrabella	Bella Mer	324	Sabre 34	02:15:47 PM
6	Steve Saewert	Joy	R33	Ranger 33	02:17:20 PM
7	Lou Salhany	Opalina	413	O'Day 28	02:21:52 PM

Raegan-e won the Flyboy's New Year's Day Regatta and retains a lead in the VSS Fall Series. Here are the VSS Standings as of now:

2016-17 VSS Fall Series - 12/13/17				Blue Class A, Red Class B		1		2		3		4		5		6				
7 Races Sailed to Date -Throwout 30%				Race →		10/21/17		10/21/17		11/11/17		11/11/17		11/18/17		12/16/17		01/06/18		
Participation=0.1		Place in GREEN indicates DNF, DSQ, etc.		Races		Pl	Pt	Pl	Pt	Pl	Pt	Pl	Pt	Pl	Pt	Pl	Pt	Pl	Pt	
Throw Out		3																		
	Yacht Name	Sail #	Skipper	Type	Sailed	Net Score														
1	Raegan-e	67818	Hahn	Olson 30	7	3.457	3	0.350	3	0.350	3	0.671	2	0.700	1	0.900	1	0.900	1	0.957
2	Spray	311	Lynch	C&C 38	7	3.321	1	0.850	2	0.600	1	0.957	3	0.500	3	0.500	2	0.700	2	0.814
3	Fruition	30707	Gately	PJ 43	6	2.821	2	0.600	1	0.850	7	0.100	4	0.300	2	0.700			3	0.671
4	Seas The Day	46	Vaughn	Vision 46	5	2.543					2	0.814	1	0.900	4	0.300	4	0.300	4	0.529
5	Joy	R33	Saewert	Ranger 33	4	1.371					4	0.529	5	0.100			3	0.500	6	0.243
6	Caribe Time	133	Capsan	S2 6.9	3	0.443			4	0.100	6	0.243			5	0.100				
7	Bella Mer	324	Tony Mirrabella	Sabre 34	2	0.771					5	0.386							5	0.386
8	Stinger	13235	Broadstock	C&C 35	1	0.100	4	0.100												
9	Opalina	131	Salhany	O'Day 28	2	0.200											5	0.100	7	0.100

A few of us stopped at the Dockside at Marker 4 for libations and food. I was sulky and not happy with myself. Loose lips sink ships!

Monday, January 1, 2018



This was the scheduled day for the first Green Flash Race of 2018, but unfortunately it didn't work out that way. The forecast had been pretty unfavorable all week, with a weak cold front expected to come through, which it did. The Friday evening forecast predicted rain, which did not happen, but the wind increase was much larger than expected. I went to the skippers' meeting at Higel Park at 11 AM and found only skippers Ben Rotteveel and Rolf Hahn there plus several crew members. Rolf had already informed me about 9 AM that he didn't intend to race, so there were only Fruition and Spray identified as likely participants. Ben commented that a two boat race might not be a good idea, and I didn't disagree. A report came in for the average wind at the Pier while we were still there and it was not encouraging—as you can see. I tried to call Brad Vaughan, owner of Seas The Day, got no answer and called a crew member who told me that there was no plan to race that day. I called Ben Rottevell and told him there were only the two boats, so just before noon I abandoned the race. The wind increased further until the noon to 1300 period, when we had already abandoned, so it was nice that we weren't out there!

I'm disappointed that we didn't get to race on January 1<sup>st</sup> so I propose that we reschedule for next Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. That would also serve as the first VSS race day for 2018. I know of no reason that I can't score one race for two purposes, the Green Flash Regatta for Flyboy and the VSS Fall series. If objections arise I can reconsider.