

2018 T-37 US National Championship Regatta



2018 Champion
Peter Conze

2nd Place
Rob Mulder

3rd Place
Ron Knight

2018 T-37 Class National Championship Regatta hosted by PNMVC and Seattle Yacht Club

On Saturday, October 6th, the 2018 T37 National Championship Regatta was again held at the Seattle Yacht Club on Portage Bay near the University of Washington. If we are not unique, we are at least unusual in having a close relationship between model R/C sailing yachts and a “big boat” yacht club. This initially came about because several of the National and Olympic sailboat winners at SYC became T37 builders and sailors. Seattle YC has supported our sailing by hosting several of our Regional and National Regattas and our annual meetings. We were honored to have the current SYC Fleet Captain

for Sailing, Christina-Marie Kimball and her husband, Alex, present at our regatta.

Another aspect which is unusual is that with active T37 Class racing also in British Columbia, U.S. and Canadian sailors are welcomed at each other's National Championship Regattas. We therefore informally call our NCR a “North American” or “Salish Sea” Championship.

Thirteen very skilled and competitive sailors from the Seattle area, the Olympic peninsula and Vancouver, BC, congregated at SYC for the regatta. Excellent

weather was predicted, with clearing clouds and a northerly sandwiched between days of rain. However, the wind gods threw us an easterly curve. Because of our venue at the west end of the marina docks and a huge power boat which should have departed, there was a significant wind shadow near the competitors' location, and we could not set the start line square to the wind. There was a wind tunnel effect between the docks and the leeward mark had wing-and-wing boats blocking visibility at the rounding. Our PRO, Fred Pot, had his work cut out trying to find courses to provide some upwind challenges, and we thank him sincerely for his competence and patience. In retrospect, we should have set gates at the leeward mark to separate some of the boats, but too much moving of marks could stir up the weeds, as the bay is only nine feet deep.

With a 10 AM start, we raced in the challenging easterly until nearly noon. The clearing sky gave us hope for the predicted northerly, so we broke for lunch to await it. However, someone apparently forgot to sacrifice a Canada goose on the altar of the wind gods, and the easterly persisted.

We completed fifteen races by just after 3 p.m. The comparable skill of the competitors was apparent by

eight having at least one bullet. As well, most skippers also had significantly bad races, either with fouls, tangles or weeds. Last year's winner, Peter Conze, was again the winner this year, with six firsts. Not far behind was the Canadian National Champion, Rob Mulder, with two firsts and five seconds. Farther back in third was Ron Knight, with one first and several thirds and fourths. Close behind Ron was Dan Newland, with no bullets but consistent upper level finishes. Other competitors with a bullet were: Chris Brian (with two), Dan Mathews, Dan Darrow, Matt Clark and John Ive. Other finishers were: Tom Condon, Will Lesh, Derek Storm and Philip Hubbell. The full results are shown below. Of interest is that the order of finishes, both before and after throw-outs, was the same!

As we are part of the American Model Yacht Association, the regatta is sponsored and partly subsidized by the AMYA. For the first 3 places, AMYA awarded gold chevrons, which can be placed on the hulls or mainsails of the boats. The skippers also got trophy plaques, with Peter Conze also getting an engraved Perpetual Trophy plaque he can display for one year. All participants and helpers also received embroidered regatta caps, which were a big hit.

Of special note was the fact that, in

spite of the high level of competitiveness, the Corinthian spirit and congeniality was exceptional. The sharing of “adventures” on the course and the overall attitude of having fun made it a truly wonderful experience. I sincerely thank all the participants for their contributions to that milieu.

I especially thank Fred Pot, an SYC board member and Mini-12 racer, who stepped into the role of PRO role for this regatta. Because of the lack of our usual number of volunteers and the crazy wind, he was significantly challenged, but rose to the occasion. He picked the courses, called the starts, recorded the finishes, and entered the scores into Sailwave. He was helped, fortunately, by the arrival of Dan Thrush, a skilled T37 and big boat sailor, who provided additional finish recording, chase boat, mark re-setting and photography skills. John Ive, Will Lesh and Matt Clark weighed and checked in the

boats and then Will and Matt set the marks. Several others pitched in by transporting equipment and helping where needed. My thanks to all!

Thanks to a father and son, Pete Barnes and Bob Peterson, who were observing and readily agreed to take photos. We are again grateful to the maintenance and catering crew of SYC who, as always, were diligent and skilled in setting up the beverages, floats, canopies, electrical supply, flat screen, and providing the chase boat and marks, as well as trying to move the visiting yachts away from our racing venue.

The Marine Room of the yacht club was also a great spot for post-racing beers and the award ceremony. We thank the Seattle Yacht Club for co-hosting another successful event.

Ron Knight, Commodore, Pacific Northwest Model Yacht Club





Rank	Sail	HeimName	Total	Net
1st	2574	Peter Conze	55.0	17.0
2nd	2238	Rob Mulder	65.0	21.0
3rd	2600	Ron Knight	78.0	36.0
4th	1559	Dan Newland	83.0	37.0
5th	2090	Chrs Brain	87.0	44.0
6th	2072	Dan Mathews	93.0	44.0
7th	1653	Dan Darrow	97.0	47.0
8th	3020	Matt Clark	106.0	54.0
9th	1326	Tom Condon	131.0	68.0
10th	2277	Will Lesh	132.0	71.0
11th	1604	Derek Storm	145.0	82.0
12th	1962	John Ive	160.0	90.0
13th	1736	Philip Hubbell	160.0	94.0