

Classboat C, I-14 regatta report

Sunday Feb 24th saw breezy and gusty trades; sustained wind approx. 18-22 gusting to about 25. Thanks to Race Committee from the Open 5.7 and the Hotfoot.

Four I-14s came out; three finished. All limped home exhausted and most with some damage. But we all experienced exhilarating rides and there were some impressive pitch-poles.

Tom was sailing with virgin I-14 crew Garret Venema, a find from our first Skiff Day of Feb 17th. Baptism by fire! (or, rather, water.) Garret did a great job and we all hope he'll be back on an I-14 again soon.

I can't say much about Race 1 as I spent more of it in the water than on the water. Course was A-F. Andy/Maureen finished first with no competition in sight. Tom/Garret took 2nd, and Todd/Doug 3rd. Elise/Doug did the old I-14 routine of finishing themselves on the course because they were way out the back.

Three boats started closely on starboard in Race 2 (course A-F), with Tom/Garret at the boat, Elise/Doug in the middle, and Team Bates below. Todd/Doug apparently just avoided pitch-poling onto the committee boat. This must have been spectacular to see. After this, they withdrew and went in for the day. Elise/Doug couldn't point with Team Bates and were forced to tack away, which ended up being a good thing for them as they sailed a big lift, banged the right corner and got to the top mark in second after Tom/Garret. Tom/Garret had a nice gybe and laid the leeward mark. Elise/Doug overstood the gybe and Andy/Maureen followed on their line, so both teams had to douse and do a two-sail reach, coming in to the mark with the Cal 20s. Elise was having trouble controlling the boat and they ended up sailing very wide of the mark. Andy/Maureen took this opportunity to get inside them at the rounding and pull ahead. Team Bates continued going right and didn't tack until they were laying the finish. Tom/Garret, who had been first around the leeward mark, had gone right but they tacked some boat-lengths below layline, and Elise/Doug tacked on their line. Tom/Garret capsized in their final tack for the finish, and Andy/Maureen got by them to win the race. Tom/Garret managed a swift righting and finished before Elise/Doug got to the line.

Plenty of excitement before the start of race 3. The rack repair on Bates' boat failed in a tack, dumping Andy into the water. Then, a couple minutes into sequence, Tom/Garret capsized above the line, and what does Race Committee do? Throw up the postponement flag! Apparently Tom/Garret broke a couple battens in the main, and RC waited for them to tape them back in.

The sequence started anew, and Elise/Doug pulled off their signature starting maneuver – they capsized just below the line with just over a minute to the start, popped back up, and trimmed in and hooked in with seconds to spare. Since they were a wee bit early, they ran the line and then made what they thought was a fantastic start...until they heard a 2nd horn several seconds after the start, looked back at the committee boat, and saw the X-ray flag. Since the other 2 boats were just starting, it was clear who had to go back. Tom/Garret started at the boat end and went right. Team Bates capsized (I'm guessing it was in a tack) on the beat. Tom/Garret hadn't looked at the course (X-F), so Elise/Doug were all alone at the windward mark as Tom/Garret continued sailing up the bay. Sadly for Elise/Doug, they had something wrong in their spinnaker system, and the kite wouldn't go up all the way. After shrimping for a while, they capsized. Whatever kept the kite from going all the way up kept it from coming all the way down, and it took a long time and multiple capsizes to get it stowed. In the meantime, Tom/Garret had noticed where the other boats were going. They bore away, set their kite, and never looked back. Once Elise/Doug got going again, what do you think they did? Tried to hoist the kite, and played the same scene all over again. While they were struggling with the kite this time, Andy/Maureen sailed past without a kite (not sure if this was related to the rack failure or if there was another breakage). Finish order: Tom/Garret by miles; Team Bates, Elise/Doug.

Luckily we have all of next weekend to lick our wounds and fix our boats before the I-14-packed weekend of March 9-10.

Results for the day:

Andy/Maureen: 1-1-2 4

Tom/Garret: 2-2-1 5

Elise/Doug: 4-3-3 10

Todd/Doug: 3-5-5 13

Season to date:

As you may recall, we're scoring by breaking the year into 3 seasons of 4 regattas each. "Frostbite season" points are very tight among the 3 boats that have sailed all 3 regattas. I'm not sure how many throw-outs we have... Below is scoring to date showing total points, and scoring with 1 throw-out per the RRS.

Series after 3 regattas (9 races)

Sail Number	Boat name	Skipper / Crew	Total points	Score with 1 throw-out
AUS 626	Paranoid	Tom / Brad (A,B) /Garrett (C)	19	15
USA 1106	Mālolo	Elise / Doug	20	16
USA 1115	Wiki Huli Wiki	Todd / Doug	42	37
USA 1160	Extended Adolescence	Andy / Maureen	17	14

Next up:

SKIFF DAY on Saturday, March 9th. With provision that we will postpone if sustained breeze on Bay is over 15 knots

Next classboat regatta, Sunday, Mar 10th.

Aloha,

Elise