

## **2015 San Juan Western Nationals June 11-13 – Klamath Lake, Oregon**

Klamath Lake is a beautiful place to sail. The natural lake is located at the foot of Crater Lake in southern Oregon adjacent to the community of Klamath Falls. The lake's consistent 10-15 knot northerly winds have attracted sailors to the Klamath Yacht Club since 1950. A total of 22 teams from the western United States and Canada converged on Klamath Lake to vie for the San Juan 21 Western Nationals championship. The sailors were greeted with sunny skies and temperatures in the mid-80s. After receiving complimentary custom bottles of wine from race organizer Greg Collins, the teams prepared for the Thursday evening practice race in light air. Unfortunately the winds picked up approximately five minutes after the race committee called off the practice race.

Friday began with a hearty breakfast cooked by the members of the Klamath Yacht Club. After a brief skippers meeting, the teams made the short sail out to the course. The competition was tight from the first gun with the Canadian Christopher Lemke battling against the legendary Ruth Barcus in the spinnaker fleet. Team Abelin from Montana tangled with the Coos Bay crews and the tough local talent in the working sails fleet. After three races in strengthening winds, the crews enjoyed a brief lunch break at the Yacht Club before hitting the water once again in that afternoon. The strong and consistent winds made for tight racing all over the course. After race five the committee brought the boats in for the day much to the relief of the tired crews. All sailors were then treated to fresh home-made pizzas and beer followed by a fine evening of libations at the club bar, live music, and the best door prizes a sailor could hope for. The winds continued through the evening and into Saturday morning.

After another great breakfast hosted by the yacht club, the boats once again hit the water for two more morning races in a strong breeze. The RC brought the boats in at lunch intending to hit the water once again in the afternoon, but after some local sandwiches and a few frosty beverages, most of the skippers and crew were in the mood to relax and enjoy the beautiful lake vistas. With the top places generally set, the sailors voted to call off the rest of the races. Boats were loaded and broken down well in time for the evening dinner and awards.

Ultimately it was Bob Abelin in the Blue Pearl taking the working sails fleet with Sean Randall and Tom Kyle in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Canadian Christopher Lemke dominated the spinnaker fleet with first places in all seven races. Ruth Barcus and Jerry Hansen took the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> spots. I'd like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers and the Klamath Yacht Club for hosting the event and we hope to see you all in 2016 for the San Juan 21 North American Championships in Calgary Canada!

Bob Abelin  
San Juan 21 National Commodore



#### All Sails Fleet

Sail No	Club	Skipper	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total	Place
2064	GSC	Chris Lemke	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1
130	FYC	Ruth Barcus	(3)	2	3	2	3	2	3	15	2
503	FYC	Jerry Hanson	2	4	2	3	(8)	3	2	16	3
1032	FYC	Bill Parsons	(7)	3	5	6	2	5	4	25	4
1330	KYC	Karl Wenner	6	(8)	4	4	4	7	5	30	5
158	KYC	Steve Crabb	8	(9)	9	5	5	4	8	39	6
2576	K L YC	Bill Pritchard	9	(10)	8	7	6	6	6	42	7
1647	GSC	Tim Griggs	4	11	7	8	(12)	8	7	45	8
1868	GSC	Darren Berdine	5	7	10	(11)	7	9	11	49	9
1505	KYC	Greg Collins	10	6	6	(12)	10	12	9	53	10
469	KYC	Karl Knudsen	11	5	(12)	10	11	11	10	58	11
1640	KYC	Tim Phillips	(12)	12	11	9	9	10	12	63	12

#### Working Sails Fleet

Sail No	Club	Skipper	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total	Place
714	CF YC	Bob Abelin	1	1	1	1	2	1	(4)	7	1
1515	CB YC	Sean Randall	2	2	(3)	2	1	2	1	10	2
876	CB YC	Tom Kyle	(4)	3	2	3	3	3	2	16	3
324	FYC	Steen Skjellerup	3	6	4	6	4	5	(8)	28	4
318	KYC	Jake Zaiger	5	4	5	5	(7)	6	3	28	5
414	FYC	Peter Reynaud	(6)	5	6	4	5	4	5	29	6
1	KYC	Wayne Connors	(7)	7	7	7	6	7	7	41	7
645	KYC	Vic Ford	8	8	8	8	(9)	8	6	46	8
1648	KYC	Aaron Tesmon	(DNF)	10	10	9	8	9	9	55	9
1819	KYC	Dick Ford	9	9	9	(DNS)	DNS	DNS	DNS	60	10