



Better By the Minute!

“Better by the minute” ... that’s the best way to describe the 2010 Leukemia Cup Regatta that was held May 1-2 at Dallas Corinthian Yacht Club (DCYC). The weekend started with everyone keeping a sharp eye on the sky since a 50% chance of thunderstorms had been forecast almost all week. A few early morning showers in the greater Dallas-Fort Worth-Denton area did nothing to lessen the concern about the Saturday weather. After all, last year at this same event a torrential downpour turned Saturday afternoon and evening into a soggy, muddy, windswept, no-electricity mess. This was the same storm that rolled through the area and knocked down the Dallas Cowboys practice tent in Irving, Texas.

To the delight of everyone, the rain held off on Saturday, a steady southerly wind filled in (luckily not the 40 MPH stuff that was experienced just 2 days prior to the event), and racing commenced around 10:30 AM. As the day progressed the clouds dissipated, the sun emerged, and the temperature steadily climbed to the upper 70’s. After four solid races were completed the fifteen Hobies in attendance headed back to shore to participate in the fundraising auctions and enjoy the catered dinner, music and dancing. Fleet 23 member Bill Davenport and his Last Call Band were the featured musical entertainment for the evening. Dancing started around 9 PM and literally went non-stop until 1 AM when everyone was encouraged to go get some sleep and save some energy for Sunday’s racing. Musical entertainment for the 2010 Leukemia Cup was organized by Fleet 23 member, Sam Baker, and supported financially by Fleet 23 and Mariner Sails.

The Dallas Leukemia Cup Regatta is actually a two-weekend event. The first weekend is the Dinghy portion of the Regatta held at Corinthian Sailing Club (CSC) on White Rock Lake, located close to downtown Dallas. The following weekend the keelboats and multihulls take their turn at DCYC on Lake Lewisville. The CSC and DCYC clubs work closely together to provide race committee staffing at each other’s event, thus allowing the local club members to race. Three race courses were run at DCYC with a total of 55 boats in attendance.

The 2010 Leukemia Cup was the ninth annual regatta, and the combined fundraising total for the two weekends this year was \$116,000. Over the past nine years approximately \$950,000 has been raised to help fight the Leukemia and Lymphoma blood diseases. You won’t want to miss next year’s event as the 10-year anniversary will also result in the one million dollar mark being eclipsed.



Sunday morning came quickly for those who danced until 1 AM the previous evening! As had been the case on Saturday, the breeze was light at first so PRO Joe Jacobi kept everyone on the beach until a more consistent southerly filled in. The wait was short as the breeze, sunshine, and temperature climbed quickly as the morning progressed. It didn't take long to complete two more races and send everyone back to the beach for the final awards and good-byes.

The fifteen Hobies in attendance consisted of five H-16s, five H-17s, three H-20s and two H-18s. The 20s and 18s were combined into one Portsmouth fleet. Racing was competitive as two of the three winners were decided on last race tie breakers. After the six races were completed, the top finishers were:

H-16 Fleet

First Place Robert & Bailee Eckles
Second Place Sheila Holmes & Mark Ralph
Third Place Robert Bridgman, Brittney & Andrew

H-17 Fleet

First Place Phil Collins
Second Place Stephen Acquart
Third Place Bruce Fields

Portsmouth (H-20 & H-18) Fleet

First Place Chris & Margie Johnston
Second Place Robert Kollman & Sybil Higgins
Third Place Mark Van Doren & David Schmid

Awards were presented on the DCYC lawn under a brilliant sun with a warm southwesterly breeze keeping all the flags, and some underwear, flying on the Club's flagpole. This year's awards included embroidered soft-sided coolers, gear bags, and the always popular Mount Gay Rum red hats.

If you missed the 2010 regatta, make sure you don't miss next year's event. As mentioned previously, the 2011 Leukemia Cup will be the 10th anniversary regatta and will eclipse the one million dollar fundraising total. Additional sponsorship is already being pursued with the goal of making the 10-year anniversary a regatta to remember.

A sincere thank you goes out to all of you who participated this year and contributed to the fundraising success. Bring a friend next year and let's shoot for a 30 boat Hobie fleet!