

A cowboy from Montana wins the 2018 J/24 District 19 Championship

The J/24 fleet sailed the yearly District 19 championship this past weekend of Oct 6th and 7th 2018. The District event was held under the larger umbrella of CYC Seattle's Puget Sound Sailing Championship that runs over the first two weekends in October. The regatta, the venue and the time of year offers a fantastic framework for an epic "end of year" one design competition. With good reason to expect breeze of varying strength, oscillations and a bit of tide. All of this with the expectation of a dash of October Pacific Northwest rain and a cold beer from the club house after racing. As part of the larger regatta, we raced among 505s, Snipes, lots of Aeros and much to everyone's surprise a single Laser racing a single Hobie? But the CYC Race Committee was up to the task, and the fleets were well sorted and well organized.

Twenty J/24s signed up for the event, and at stake was the championship as well as a World qualifier spot for next year's 2019 Worlds Championship in Miami. Friday night offered extra focus on preparation, inspections of boats and rigorous review of eligibility of boat (class certificates and a ton of other stuff that we tend to forget in between these big regattas). Good news: We now all have tight lifelines and paper work on file with the club.

Saturday: Started out with breeze and we all had to feather a bit to hold the boat flat. We got three good races in and as expected had to balance our strategy: On the inside we found a bit more tide relief, but the pressure on the outside was just a bit better overall. Over the day the breeze died down and at the 4th race we ran out of wind and had to abandon after a 45 minute upwind. Dinner and drinks at the club house was great. Pete Sauer won the day in borrowed boat Self Abuse with a solid 1st, 2nd, 1st. Michael Johnson in Pearl 2nd and finally Mark Laura's Baba Louie in third.

Sunday: Again good breeze. Everyone wearing their best genoas and fully hiked. Lots of races and lots of drama with tons of boats called back for OCS (the "around the ends" rule became routine for the day), and the usual compression at both windward and leeward marks leading to even more drama. And finally the tug boat that decided to run a 600 ft floating dock over the top mark. The competition remained tight and before the last race Pete in Self Abuse found himself ahead by just one point to Scott Milne's Tremendous Slouch and the boats in 3rd, 4th and 5th were all within striking distance of the trophy – which lead to a dramatic last race!

Results:

- **Team Self Abuse with Pete Sauer, Key Jeffcock Alex Simanis, Joe Greiser and Joe Wilderman** went on to win the last race and secure the **2018 District 19 trophy**. Well done and well deserved.
- **Scott Milne's Tremendous Slouch** finished just two points behind and in the process **secured themselves a birth for Worlds in Miami** (as Pete already had a birth from earlier in the year winning Western Regionals). Also congratulations for crawling back from a tough start Saturday and winning Sunday overall.
- **Mark Laura's Baba Louie** finished third and just three points behind Slouch.

- Sailed: 8, Discards: 0, To count: 8, Entries: 20.
- Reference:
http://racing.cycseattle.org/results/2018_specific/psscsb.html

Additional notes from the author:

From our perspective on Hair of the Dog it was just a fantastic weekend. It is a privilege to race against a number of the top J/24 boats. Boats that have not just participated, but done well at Worlds. Here is what we learned: It sucks to rig boat in the rain. The hoist is still out to get our windex. Port gives way for starboard, unless port is absolutely dead in the water and on the mark. Also, it is cheaper to hit an inflatable mark than a fellow J/24. It sucks to have to return under spinnaker to restart under an OCS recall a good minute up the first leg. That a full day of sailing followed by a haul of the boat and de-rigging makes for an exhausting day.

Thank you everyone for a great weekend. To the travelling boats that made it to Seattle. To the strong class measurers and registration team Michael, Noel, Christa, Kelly, Alice, and Melanie. The entire CYC OA lead by Matthew Wood. And of course the on-the-water RC team lead by Geoff Pease that got a ton of races thru in tricky conditions (with lots of sailors him offering "advice"). A personal thank you to the protest committee that twice listened to our ranting and correctly (and mostly gently) explained why our cause did not 'stand up in court'.

Jakob Lichtenberg