

The Racing Sheet

Icon wins overall on Round the County (Countess) Race

Friday Harbor, Wash. - It seems every year the goddess of the Round the County Race, let's call her The Countess, delivers up something different the first weekend in November. Some years it's a gear-bruster on Saturday followed by a drifter on Sunday. Sometimes it's an epic storm somewhere along the way that has sailors telling stories for years. Sometimes boats drift to within hailing distance of the finish while the time runs out. This year The Countess gave each of the 70 boats tales of defeats snatched from victories or vice versa, in some cases several each day.

It must have provided her with some kind of twisted amusement this year as sailors struggled to figure it out. She enjoyed it so much she gave racers two great, if sometimes confounding, days.

This year's start at Lydia Shoal just northeast of Obstruction Pass was in an easterly turning southerly. As it was a "clockwise" year,

the course was headed around the south of the County on day one.

By the time the final start of the multihulls was off, it was clear it was going to be one of those days where you might look brilliant. Or quite the opposite. There seemed to be some swirls in the current, but boats on the east side of Rasario Strait enjoyed some welcome but peculiar current boosts. *Neptune's Car, Icon* and the canting keeled Schock 40 *Paradigm* broke free from Roasario and led the light air spinaker parade south of the islands. As the fleet worked its way along the southwest shore of San Juan Island, it found itself sailing in a light northerly and adverse current.

At the end of the day, the fastest boats in the fleet had it tough on corrected time, but the corrected times were fairly close in all classes. This was important since the race is scored on combined corrected times for the two days.

The Countess toyed with the rac-

ers on day two as well, warming them with sun but withholding any real breeze until well into the race. She lured the unsuspecting away from Turn Point on Stuart Island with promises of breezes, while daring others to charge straight into glass right at the point. As it turned out, getting through that glassy spot was the best way to get around that point. *Jack Rabbit* found out that it is possible to get too close to Turn Point, and caught everybody's attention with a bang as she hit bottom. But she kept racing!

What followed can only be described as the perfect broad reach, something seldom enjoyed in Pacific Northwest racing. With sunshine and 15-20 knots off the quarter, every boat seemed at its best, and the lead boats were soon at Patos Island. It was there that *White Cloud*, in heated battle with *Madrone*, found bottom with a mighty bang of its own. From there to the finish it was a challenging beat with

a couple of mini-restarts that put a high premium on changing gears and playing shifts.

But The Countess wasn't quite done. Right after Point Lawrence off Orcas Island, she gave tacticians a choice, go for breeze or outside Peapod rocks or less adverse current inside the rocks. To those who made the correct choice by going for breeze, like the striking vintage maxi *Velos*, she rewarded handsomely. For some, like 2008 overall winner *Flash*, going inside the rocks just didn't work at all.

Kevin Welch's big Perry designed *Icon* survived a painful Saturday (close to last in class on corrected time) to come back to win the class and overall on Sunday by a wide margin. The key was a strong move after Sunday's start straight at Turn Point. With ample sail area up high and great light air technique, she turned at Turn Point and was gone.

A mid-fleet finish for *What, A Tripp!* on Saturday didn't stop her from a dominating performance on Sunday for her Division II win. She was one of the boats that had the end-game figured out, sailing east of the Peapod Rocks while much of her class ducked inside the rocks.

But perhaps the most impressive performance came from *Wild Rumpus*, Andy and Stephanie Schwenk's bright yellow Santa Cruz 27. Every year, no matter how *Rumpus* gets tossed around, she's out for RTC. This year she won her class by 19 minutes on corrected time, a wider margin than any other monohull class winner had over a second place boat. Among the five multihulls, Jude Stoller's *Makika* turned in another dominating performance. — **Kurt Hoehne**

Ed. Note: Hoehne sailed on Voodoo Child which provided, perhaps more than any other boat out there, much amusement to The Countess.

Moonshine walks away with 2010 STYC Commodore's Cup

Shilshole Bay, Wash. - This year the Sloop Tavern Yacht Club (STYC) reformatted its annual competition among its members for the Commodore's Cup to include 23 race events that STYC organized this year. Scoring was based upon the best five scores from these events. Included in these 23 events was the new Down the Sound race that debuted in August (and is now sure to be a perennial favorite), but not the more casual new Take-Your-Time Fridays events that were held in

June and July (but which were also were a hit). The Commodore's Cup proved to be very competitive this year and the winner was not determined until STYC's last race of the year - the Fall Regatta.

The winner of both the Fall Regatta (three bullets and first overall) and the first 'new era' STYC Commodore's Cup was Kirk and Jen Fraser and the crew of the Yankee 30 *Moonshine*. *Moonshine* nearly 'pitched a perfect game' this year by winning 7 of 8 events entered, with

a second place finish in the only event that *Moonshine* didn't win! Congratulations to *Moonshine* for an incredible racing season! Complete 2010 STYC Commodore's Cup results can be found on STYC's website (www.styc.org).

Please plan to join this terrific competition for the 2011 STYC Commodore's Cup! The first scheduled qualifying event (of many) will be the January 29 Iceberg Race. Cheers! - **Paul Kalina, STYC's Commodore**

The Racing Sheet

Fast is Fun, and so's your Mom!

Santa Cruz 27 sailors gear up for 2011 Nationals in June

Pacific Northwest - Santa Cruz 27 is arguably the mutha of all ULDB's ... built for pure fun and speed in any conditions and in any waters by the Wizard of boat builders, Bill Lee. With Nationals at Whidbey Race Week 2011, this is a great opportunity to jump in a building local fleet of fun boats and people. SC27's were never built to a measurement system, so they continue to hold their own in PHRF racing. If one design is your thing, there are fleets from Bellingham, out to the islands, down through Seattle, in Hood River, and of course in the Bay area and Santa Cruz. Our SC27 loved every minute of Round the County, Southern Straits, out in the ocean in Santa Cruz, 7,000 feet up in the High Sierras, down the Hood River Gorge, and many many laps around Fidalgo Bay (and more!), all during 2010.

Cheap thrills, and a reputation for being easy: The youngest crew of the Pacific Cup this year double handed an SC27. It's trailerable, and easy with a pick hoist or on a ramp. Women and kids can easily handle the boat, with a light helm and light loads on the sheets. You can choose your own deck layout, set up for full crewed, double handed, single handed, or whatever you want, and they come in many pretty colors! Aren't we all tired of white hulls? Why go with white when you have the whole rainbow out there in the SC27 fleet. The boat only really needs 4 sails: a main, genoa, jib and kite. Save your money for the important stuff, and drink the good beer!

For a good time call: Andy at Northwest Rigging 360-770-7035, or Alex at Ballard Sails 206-706-5500. You can also check us out online at nwsac27.com and [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nwsac27) pages: *nw santa cruz sailors*, *wild rumpus racing team*, *little blue dune buggy* and *team cookie monster*. Want to be set up with a boat to buy, or crew with? We'll hook you up... want to get your boat together for Race Week, we're here to help! SC27: not the latest, but maybe the greatest ...



Nothing better than one-design racing with the SC-27 fleet during the summer at Whidbey Island.

need
CREW
gear?

EMBROIDERY AND APPAREL
SINCE 1994

www.kamgear.com

5476 shilshole avenue nw . ballard

206 . 789 . 0505

VISIT SEATTLEBOATSHOW.COM

YOUR ONE-STOP SOURCE FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING IN THE NORTHWEST

- NEWS AND EVENTS
- BOATS FOR SALE
- SERVICES AND PRODUCTS
- BOAT SHOW UPDATES