

September 30, 2007

**CR 914 New England Championships**  
**At Redd's Pond, Marblehead, MA**  
**Sunday, September 23, 2007**

*By Chuck Winder*

Challenging! Frustrating! Exhausting! These words give the flavor of what 11 skippers felt trying to make the best of the wind conditions and heat. Luck played a large roll in finish positions in any given race because of the extremely variable conditions. The three top boats had finishes of 6<sup>th</sup> or worse. But, as always, after 18 races the best skippers were at the top.

Eighteen races were sailed. Race director Judy Skerry shortened the day to stop racing at 2 pm instead of 3 pm as planned. No skipper disagreed.

Steve Cruse was an impressive 11 points in the lead with 8 first place finishes, but even he had an 8<sup>th</sup> in one race. Biff Martin and Stan Goodwin were separated by one point in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**RACE RESULTS – 18 RACES**

Place	Skipper	Points 3 discards	Firsts	Comments
1	Steve Cruse	23	8	Truly superior
2	Biff Martin	34	6	Closely matched performance
3	Stan Goodwin	35	3	
4	John Skerry	71		
5	Stuart Tubbs	73		Third group was closely matched, too.
6	Bill David	76		
7	Paul Zimmerman	103		Paul's first regatta
8	Sarra Tubbs	113		
9	Bill O'Connor	120	1	
10	Al Gromko	132		
11	Chuck Winder	144		Sailed only 7 races

***RACE DIRECTOR***

Judy Skerry did her usual outstanding job. She was a one-woman race committee running the racing as well as scoring. Marblehead MYC is fortunate to have her. With Judy skippers don't risk bad behavior. ☺



***LUNCH AND BEVERAGES***

Biff Martin and Cheryl Emmons, continuing the tradition, supplied the excellent lunch. The sandwiches were delicious turkey and cheese roll-ups. Biff Martin supplied a selection of soft drinks to assure we remained hydrated.

### ***Race Course***

The mid pond start/finish line was used to get the most consistent winds. Both windward and leeward marks used offsets to avoid conflicts after rounding. Even so the marks were often congested as the fickle winds often bunched the boats together. A gaggle of boats rounding a mark in the light and variable winds was something to behold.

### ***RADIO Performance***

No radio “glitching” problems were reported. There were no 23-channel combinations. A few skippers had to replace depleted batteries. Four boats used Spektrum radios.

### ***REDD’S POND***

Redd’s had been treated in June this year. No boats were fouled with grass or algae, but a few were fouled by leaves; it is Fall after all. The water level is about 13 inches below normal. Even with the 9 inch draft CR 914, skippers had to find places with enough depth to launch. One boat even touched bottom approaching the windward mark.

### ***NEXT YEAR***

This is the first year for this regatta. We want it to become an annual affair, growing each year. This year Bill David, #1303, Swansea, MA, was the only skipper from away. We want all owners to put this regatta on their schedules for next year.



**Eight CR 914s start at the NE Championships**



*Left to right: Stuart Tubbs, Paul Zimmerman, Steve Cruse, Stan Goodwin, Judy Skerry and Biff Martin*



**TEN BOATS AT A START**

**Bill O'Connor, #1272, leads the start but he is well down the line.  
3<sup>rd</sup> place Stan Goodwin, #141, is in good position astern of 2<sup>nd</sup> place Biff Martin, #1211.  
Bill David on port, orange boat at top, has a problem.**



**Four boats chase winner Steve Cruse, #23 around the windward mark.**  
*John Husted Image*