

Bellingham Bay saw 23 Laser standards and 41 Laser Radials from mostly BC, WA and OR plus one brave soul from CA line up to race on a weekend that proved to have most wind ranges to contend with.

Saturday morning started sunny with 10-12kts out of the south dying as the day went on to finish in about 3-5kts, the Standards got 4 races off and the Radials 3 as they had to re-start several times due to general recalls. Races were championship length running around 50-60 minutes which favoured the fit when the wind was up.

Sunday started with a weak easterly, never a good thing in the bay but as competitors arrived the expected sporty southeasterly kicked in and we had 18-24kts with quite bumpy sea states for most of the day until the last Radial race where it eased to around 10kts. Standards raced another 4 for a total of 8 races and Radials 4 for a total of 7.

In the standards the Canadians swept the podium with Ian Elliott from RVYC dominating the fleet with 6 bullets a 2nd and a 4th place throw out for 8 points, Mathew Stranaghan, WVYC, 2nd (Also first youth) with 22 points and Tony Martin, JSCA, in 3rd with 29.

In the larger Radial fleet, which was also packed with the regions strong youth contingent Maura Dewey, RVYC, Allan Clark, RVYC and Hanne Weaver, SYC/RVYC could be seen swapping leads and racing bow to bow around the marks both days. The final points showed how close the competition was as they finished with 12,14 and 15 points in total. Cameron Holland, RVYC came in 4th overall and also the first youth racer.

The BYC operated two full race courses over the weekend as we also had the annual Dale Jepson One Design regatta happening with a fleet of 15 505's and 6 FJ's. With over thirty volunteers and 10 support vessels on the water it was a large undertaking for our club, which was handled well. PRO's Mick Corcoran (DJOD) and Blaine Pedlow (PCC's) managed both race courses.

A big thank you to our event sponsors; Samson Ropes, The Port of Bellingham, Stones Throw Brewery, West Coast Sailing, West Marine and the host Bellingham Yacht Club.

Thank you

Mike Powell & Mike Poulos
Regatta Chairs.

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