

REGATTA REPORT  
STAR 45 National Championship Regatta 2008  
Mystic Seaport, CT  
23, 24 August 2008

Glorious weather and warm New England hospitality greeted competitors at the 2008 Star 45 National Championship Regatta celebrated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2008, as part of this year's Mystic Seaport Model Yacht Regatta in Mystic, Connecticut!

Four classes of model yachts held championship events, EC-12s and Wheelers on Thursday and Friday and J Class boats and Star 45s on Saturday and Sunday. Winds were about 0 to 8 mph in the mornings and 8 to 2 mph in the afternoons, from the north, west, and south, and shifty. An enormous upper level high protected us from the effects of T.S. Fay, still pouring torrential rains on Florida and Louisiana and their neighbors, and storms in the Midwest. Skies were a perfect blue, and temperatures ranged from the mid 60s to the mid 80s. Each Class raced one morning and one afternoon, and the competition was fierce, exhilarating, and congenial. No protest hearings occurred. Glorious !!!

Along with its immense beauty, the venue presented special challenges to those of us who habitually sail in sweetwater ponds with no connection to tidal waters. There were Atlantic jellyfish, about 6" in diameter at the head, with tentacles reaching down to about 2.5 feet deep. They became objects of our derision and the standard excuse, when a boat, previously sailing well, would stay heeled over but make little further forward progress and begin moving steadily down-current. In one heat I was doing well until I just couldn't get from the leeward gate to the finish line against an adverse current. It finally dawned on me to maneuver into irons and make sternway for a while to get free of my gelatinous passenger. There were also a few clumps of Sargasso-like weed floating up and down the race course with the tidal currents. Fortunately, these impediments were amenable to the same defensive tactic used against the jellies. Sternway? During a race? Yep. And nerve-wracking it was. Regatta management kindly provided a fresh water hose at the launching dock for our use in rinsing the brackish Mystic River water off our boats at the end of each day. There were a few electrolytic short circuits, a winch fire, and other problems, but not as many as I expected. Perfectly dry boats seemed to have no electrical problems. Personally, I will definitely no longer avoid brackish model yachting venues. These new challenges didn't seem so important to us Texans, because we were just simply overwhelmed by the beauty of the venue and the hospitality of our hosts.

The Julie Ayres National Craftsmanship Award went to John Fisher of Colorado in recognition of his outstanding work on a cedar-planked hull with okume plywood topsides, very nice varnish, and an extra inch of (legal) bow freeboard. John also captured the new Mainwaring/Fisher trophy for placing highest among the scratch-built entries.

Sailing superstar Chuck Luscomb placed first in his first Star 45 regatta with a boat whose construction was completed only minutes before the first heat! He also placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the EC-12 event.

Here are the preliminary results (Class Secretary Don Keeney will publish the heat-by-heat numbers and any corrections when he gets back to home base in Texas):

Place	Points	Skipper	Sail No.
First	31	Chuck Luscomb	84
Second	45	John Emery	782
Third	68	John Fisher	842
Fourth	73	Dave Ramos	829
Fifth	78	John Arkenberg	608
Sixth	92	Charles Swartzell	604
Seventh	105	Jim Linville	811
Eighth	110	Ernest Freeland	659
Ninth	115	Phil Geren	786
Tenth	121	Kevin McClellan	716
Eleventh	127	Tim Barnes	801
Twelfth	138	Bob Shluger	307
Thirteenth	153	Rich Ellis	831
Fourteenth	175	Hank Buchanan	544
Fifteenth	180	Bill Koch	522
Sixteenth	203	Don Keeney	734

Hats are off to the organizers and managers of this glorious event. We thank Ken Shaw, John Snow, Jack Garbarino, Jim Linville, Chuck Luscomb, and Shannon McKenzie for their selfless dedication and hard work in providing a truly outstanding NCR. The picnic at Jack's amazing place was delightful. The dinner in the Seaman's Inne was especially enjoyable because of John's talent as master of ceremonies. Jake Leo did a magnificent job as principal racing officer, handling that thankless job in a thoroughly professional manner, with firmness tempered by flexibility and warm good will.

Since the Star 45 racing was finished at mid day on Sunday, I had adequate time to tour the Museum of America and the Sea, have one more big steaming bowl of New England Style Clam Chowder, and savor the freshest and most delicious grilled swordfish I have ever had. The 2008 Star 45 NCR was a delightful and unforgettable experience. See you at the next one!

Kindest regards,  
Phil Geren  
S45s #778 and #786  
AMYA 13013



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14	15	16	Total	
1 Chuck Luscomb	1	5	2	3	1	3	2	4	2	2	-5	3	2	2	3	1	4	-4	31
2 John Emery	6	6	5	1	4	6	5	3	1	4	-6	1	1	3	4	4	1	-4	45
3 John Fisher	7	3	3	2	3	2	1	17	3	3	-17	11	9	13	10	3	8	-13	68
4 Dave Ramos	2	2	1	6	2	1	17	12	10	17	-17	7	5	1	5	11	2	-11	73
5 John Arkenburg	3	1	14	10	7	11	7	1	4	10	-14	2	8	10	1	8	5	-10	78
6 Charles Swartzell	8	9	8	4	8	5	11	9	9	5	-11	6	10	4	7	7	3	-10	92
7 Jim Linville	11	10	11	11	12	7	6	5	5	13	-13	4	3	8	8	5	6	-8	104
8 Ernest Freeland	4	8	10	9	6	10	3	2	17	17	-17	5	17	17	2	2	15	-17	110
9 Phil Geren	5	4	6	5	9	4	8	17	12	9	-17	14	11	5	13	10	14	-14	115
10 Kevin Maclellan	12	7	9	13	5	14	17	7	17	1	-17	8	6	6	9	13	7	-13	121
11 Tim Barnes	10	12	4	8	10	12	12	8	6	6	-12	10	7	12	11	12	11	-12	127
12 Bob Shluger	9	11	7	12	11	13	10	6	8	7	-13	12	12	9	14	14	10	-14	138
13 Rich Ellis	13	17	13	7	13	9	4	11	11	11	-17	9	13	11	15	15	13	-15	153
14 Hank Buchanan	17	17	17	17	17	17	9	10	7	8	-17	17	4	17	17	9	9	-17	175
15 Bill Koch	14	17	12	17	11	8	13	13	17	12	-17	13	14	14	6	17	16	-17	180
16 Don Keeney	17	17	17	15	17	17	17	17	17	17	-17	15	15	7	12	6	12	-15	203