

Fleet 34 Stonington, Connecticut

Fishers Island Sound, 1965

Commodore: Robin Durrschmidt

Vice Commodore: Russ Sheets

Treasurer: Gene Fiese

Secretary: Gene Fiese

Newsletter Editor: Robin Durrschmidt

Scorer: Walter Pratt

2008 Season Champions:

1 st Ward Woodruff, NIGHTWIND 458	100.0 pts
2 nd Robin Durrschmidt, MAGIC 363	90.5 pts
3 rd George Bates, BONANZA 385	85.4 pts

The 2008 Ensign Racing Season for Fleet 34 consisted of 13 races in Fishers Island Sound and Long Island Sound. These fleet races were hosted by six local yacht clubs. In addition, twelve boats participated in the 2007 Region II & III Ensign Championship hosted by Fleet 57 at Thames Yacht Club. Ward Woodruff in NIGHTWIND won this Regional Championship. Seventeen of Fleet 34 Ensigns also participated in the 2008 Ensign National Regatta hosted by Fleets 34, 57 and 73 at Niantic Bay Yacht Club. Gary Woodruff in TAILGUNNER was the top local finisher in 4th place. In addition, two boats took a road trip to Bucks Harbor, Maine, to participate in their July regatta.

The Fleet 34 Early Series averaged 6.7 Ensign's per race. The Early Series was won by Ward Woodruff in NIGHTWIND (96.1 pts) followed by Mac Cooper in T.T.F.N (83.2 pts) and Robin Durrschmidt in MAGIC (82.5 pts). The Late Series averaged 7.3 boats for each race and was won by Ward Woodruff in NIGHTWIND (91.2 pts) followed by Robin Durrschmidt in MAGIC (87.0) and George Bates in BONANZA (82.3 pts). Seven boats participated in the end of season Bill Jones Around Fishers Island / Hospice Race that was won by Ward Woodruff in NIGHTWIND.

Overall Fleet 34 averaged 7.0 Ensign's per race, down from 8.2 in 2007. A total of 17 different boats participated throughout the season, up three from the previous year. Ward Woodruff in NIGHTWIND who achieved a perfect 100 pt score with

throw-outs won the Season Championship. Second place went to Robin Durrschmidt in MAGIC (90.5 pts) followed by George Bates in BONANZA (85.4 pts). The Leuze and Ayers Trophies were not awarded this year.

As suggested from his perfect score, Ward Woodruff in NIGHTWIND also won most of the regattas: the Pine Island Regatta, The Maritime Cup, the Governor's Regatta at Thames YC, the Mason's Island YC Regatta and the Fishers Island YC Regatta. Steve DeGraff in HEART'N SOUL won the season opener Robert Jones Memorial Day Race and John Brousseau in GRASSHOPPER won the end-of-season HOSPICE / Bill Jones Around the Island Race. Other regatta winners were Robin Durrschmidt in MAGIC at the Niantic Early Bird Regatta and the Thames Commodore's Regatta while Mac Cooper in T.T.F.N. won the Horton One Design and George Bates in BONANZA won the Ram Island Regatta.



Ward Woodruff (right) of NIGHTWIND accepts the Fleet 34 Season Championship Trophy for 2008 from Commodore Robin Durrschmidt. Ward won this trophy with the unusual accomplishment of a throw-out corrected perfect score. Picture by Gene Fiese.

Fleet 34 consisted of 21 skippers this year and 5 associate members spanning the shoreline from Niantic, CT, to Westerly, RI. Many of the members also belong to Fleet 57 at Thames Yacht Club, New London, and Fleet 73 at Niantic Bay Yacht Club. A majority of the members also belong to the ECA, and about a dozen belong to US Sailing. In summary, we had a very busy and enjoyable sailing season in 2008 and look forward to more exciting Ensign sailing in 2009.

Roster:

11	SWOOSE	Russ Carr
46	GIZMO	Russ Sheets
301	FIREBIRD	John Macina & Michael Macina
319	TEAMWORK	Walter Pratt & Eric Jones
363	MAGIC	Robin Durrschmidt

385	BONANZA	George & Nancy Bates
458	NIGHTWIND	Ward & Louise Woodruff
496	TAILGUNNER	Gary Woodruff
549	T.T.F.N.	Mac Cooper
689	THE GREEN FLASH	Bruce Skinner
819	FRIENDLY SPIRIT	Rick Conley
864	GRASSHOPPER	John Brousseau
910	WILKAT	Paul Grady
978	HEART'N SOUL	Steve DeGraff
981	SAM	Jim & Karen Anderson
1066	FRIENDSHIP	Roy Adamson
1070	INDESEAS	Gene Fiese
1497	PERAGRINE	Bob, Kris & Charlie Shabunia
1602	SAGACIOUS	Bob Geary
1623	SANS SOUCI	Ted Parker