

J/44 NEWS SEP 90

Gilmore's ZAFU Wins TransAtlantic Next Sail is BOC Round-the-World

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Isdale Wins 1990 North Americans

George ("Dooley") and Candy Isdale's FAIR AMERICAN lived up to her name to win the second J/44 North American Championship on Rhode Island Sound in mid-August. This event was conducted as part of Sailing World Magazine's National Offshore One-Design Regatta in Newport over a three day weekend, August 17-19. The opening reception, Class Dinner and Annual Meeting were held at the New York Yacht Club's Harbour Court.

Ten J/44s attended from eight different States with two from Michigan and New Jersey. The two Detroit boats were shipped overland, and they reported that taking keels off and putting them back on has become a routine and uncomplicated task. The long distance honor went to Jack Small, Doug Shaffer, and Jay Lutz's program on SPOILER which sailed all the way from Galveston Bay to attend.

Dooley with partner Skip Purcell, Reeves Potts and Mike Keyworth had FAIR AMERICAN going fast both upwind and downwind. That's a hard combination to beat when combined with conservative sailing. Dooley is tough to beat, because he doesn't start hitting corners of the race course when he gets behind. FAIR AMERICAN just hangs in with the fleet, waiting for others to make mistakes.

With the boats so close, one mistake usually meant 3-4 boats lost. There was a lot of position changing on the weather legs. This close action was caused by the equality of the boats. Prior to the series all J/44s were equalized in accord with Class Rules. The heaviest not carrying any water and the lightest carrying full tanks of water to insure that sailing displacement (not counting crew weight variations) for all competitors was the same.

The first day of racing on Friday was lost due to dense fog on the Sound. But, the next two days of sailing more than made up for it. Saturday was a classic "smokey sou'wester" with 15-19 knot breezes under H1's and #2s.

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"Johnstone Crowns Vintage Coves Week"

That was the front page headline of the London Daily Telegraph's Monday Sports Section after Coves Week which J-HAWK won with finishes of 1-1-1-2-3 in the big boat CHS class of 62 yachts. But, this impressive performance was only half the story.

Participating in her inaugural regatta in England, the J/44 J-HAWK, sailed by Stuart Johnstone and a team organized by Chris Mason of North Sails (UK) Ltd., overcame enormous odds to win CHS Class III in the Land Rover Coves Week with a DNF, 3,4, DNF, 1,2,1,1 record (best five counting). Coves Week is the annual weeklong extravaganza in August hosted by the Coves Combined Clubs, an organization of all yacht clubs located in Coves on the beautiful Isle of Wight. The event is sailed on the perplexing Solent, reknown for its shifty wind and tides, and is one of the largest regattas worldwide. Over 800 boats and an estimated 5,000 sailors inundate this famous seaside town, with at least one of every European nation represented.

J-HAWK was launched and commissioned just five hours before the first race on Saturday, and a mere ten days after leaving the Tillotson-Pearson yard in Warren RI via roll-on-roll-off ship. J-HAWK was crewed by 42 different people over the eight races including MERIT's 1989 Whitbread project manager, Peter Bateman, 1987 Olympic Finn representative Stuart Childerly, ROTHMAN's Whitbread skippers Gordon MacGuire and Julian Brooke-Houghton and match racing skippers Harry Cudmore and Dave Howlett.

The 62 boats in the class (rating over 1.010 CHS) included the 1987 British America's Cup contender CRUSADER at the top with a number of X-Yachts, Beneteaus and others, 38 to 50 feet in length. J-HAWK was always second boat-for-boat across the line behind CRUSADER on windward-leeward courses, usually finishing within 10 minutes of her after 30+

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