

## Sailing

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### Puzzling finish for Race Week

**CBYRA event ends  
in frustrating fashion**

By BILL WAGNER, Staff Writer

They played cards and worked on crossword or Sudoku puzzles. They held up silly signs with such messages as "Dear Mom, Send Wind" or "I'd Rather Be Sailing."

For the hundreds of sailors on 158 boats and race committee personnel on four courses, the 40th Annapolis Race Week was an exercise in frustration.

Poor winds plagued the popular three-day regatta, organized by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club Racing Association. Fleet 1, which included PHRF A0, A1 and A2 along with the Beneteau 36.7 and J/35 one-design classes, completed only one race the entire weekend. Fleet 2 (J/105, J/30, PHRF A and B) got in just two races.

Boats on those two courses spent Saturday, Sunday and Monday bobbing around and waiting for wind that never arrived. Jim Konigsberg, skipper of J/105 class winner *Inigo*, recalled one race that found boats on the right side of the course reaching toward the windward mark while those on the left were still beating.

"It was so, so frustrating," Konigsberg said. "I felt bad for the race committee because they tried so hard to get us some races under ridiculously trying circumstances."



Photo by Catherine Day -- For The Capital  
Competitors wait on the wind at last weekend's  
CBYRA Annapolis Race Week.

Three of the four fleets did not complete a race on Sunday before the abandonment call was made. Konigsberg saw the forecast for Monday was more of the same and came properly prepared.

"I went on one of those humor websites and printed off a few pages of jokes so I'd have plenty of material to keep the crew entertained," he said.

Bobby Frey, overall race committee chairman, blamed the insufferable situation on Tropical Storm Ernesto, which brought high winds to the area on Thursday and Friday then left dead air for Labor Day weekend.

Fleet 3, which raced on the most northerly course off Hackett's Point, was blessed with the best breeze and finished four races. It wasn't entirely smooth sailing for Cal 25, Catalina 27, J/24 and PHRF C classes due to a current that came ripping down the Chesapeake Bay at around 1.5 knots.

"It was very tricky trying to play the breeze and the current at the same time," said David Sliom, who skippered *Dancing Bear* to second in PHRF C. "In one race we dipped into the mouth Whitehall Bay to get out of the current and got lifted toward the mark. It was like sailing the Great Circle Route."

...Most of the sailors understood the challenges faced by the race committee and had high praise for the efforts of principal race officers Wayne Bretsch (Fleet 1), Taran Teague (Fleet 2), Sharon Hadsell (Fleet 3) and Don Behrens (Fleet 3).

"I haven't heard too many complaints, which leads me to believe the sailors felt the race committee made the right calls," regatta chairman Gilbert Renaut said. "There were a lot of hard decisions to be made, whether to start or abandon a race."

By contrast, CBYRA president Angelo Buscemi was happy with the shore-side activities as first-year title sponsor Gosling's Rum funded three terrific parties at the Annapolis Yacht Club annex. Malcolm Gosling, president of United States operations, attended the tent party on Sunday night and his company provided great giveaways such as hats, flags and T-shirts.

"Our partnership with Gosling got off to a great start. It shows how much the company cares about sailing sponsorship that Malcolm Gosling went out of his way to be here," Buscemi said. "Gosling stepped up strong and contributed a lot of resources to make this a top-notch event."

Published September 07, 2006. The Capital, Annapolis, Md.