

SMSA Cumming Cup – July 6-7, 2009

Hosted By Pleasant Bay Community Boating and Chatham Yacht Club

### Cotuit Mosquito Yacht Club Wins the Cumming Cup

For the first time since 1938, Cotuit Mosquito Yacht Club has won the SMSA Cumming Cup. Skipper Pete Edmunds with Crews Adam Keally and Samantha Nuechterlein, sailed consistently well over the two days that included two eliminations and a final sailed in Flying Scots, hosted by Pleasant Bay Community Boating and Chatham Yacht Club. Pleasant Bay – Skipper Johannes Raatz, with Crews Liz Dubovik and Quinn Howes - finished second and will also represent SMSA at the Area A competition. In all, eleven teams competed in a regatta that featured close racing and close results in all three round robins.

Two elimination rounds were held on Monday in a light easterly. These featured very even racing from all teams. In the morning bracket, all five teams won a race, and third fourth and fifth places ended up within a point as they jockeyed for the last qualifying spot for Tuesday - New Bedford edging out Stone Horse and Chatham, with Beverly first and Cotuit second. The afternoon teams had similar conditions and results with four teams winning races and the top four separated by only four points – Wianno first followed by Pleasant Bay and Stage Harbor, Vineyard Haven, Edgartown, and CBC narrowly missing out on the finals.

Tuesday's Final was sailed in a Southeasterly that freshened to 10-15 knots for most of the races. Again, the competition was very tight and featured excellent racing and seamanship. The results were uncertain even after the racing completed. One result of the close quarters was a number of protests. The Protest Committee noted excellent sportsmanship in the hearings with little dispute as to the facts of the incidents and amicable resolutions.

Cotuit finished strong with two seconds and a first, and they prevailed with 16 points, benefiting from having avoided any disqualifications. Pleasant Bay ended second with 19, and New Bedford came in third with 21 edging out Stage Harbor with 22. Beverly and Wianno trailed with 28 and 30 points, respectively, having each suffered a number of penalties.

The Event Chair would like to commend all the competitors and the clubs they represented for the high level of competition and sportsmanship, and to thank Race Committee chair Ted Dickson and Chatham Yacht Club for all their efforts in running a fine event. Thanks also to all the volunteers that provided food and hospitality to the sailors, and the staffs of PBCB and CYC who helped run the event.

See you next year!

John Dickson, Cumming Cup Event Chair

President, Pleasant Bay Community Boating