

2nd Annual Poquoson Challenge
Poquoson River - Fleet 518,
Poquoson, Virginia
August 21, 2010

Pos	Skipper	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Chandler Owen	1	3	2	2	8
2	Frank Gallagher	4	4	1	1	10
3	Ron Buchanan	2	2	3	3	10
4	Nabeel Alsalam	3	1	5	7	16
5	Jim Dillard	6	5	4	4	19
6	Red Fehrle	5	6	6	8	25
7	Jack Shepard	7	7	7	6	27
8	Chuck Wood	8	8	DNF	5	30
9	Elise Watt	9	9	DNC	DNC	38

It was all about the Taiwanese Wind God that hangs on the porch facing the Poquoson River. I had requested winds for the original date of the regatta and he provided perfect winds. When the date was changed and I went back to him he was ambivalent at best, "Maybe, maybe not." On the morning of the regatta the Poquoson was a millpond. The Wind God was toying with me. By 12:00 there was a faint wind line from the East. He came through. It built to 10, gusting to 18 with 20-degree shifts just to make it interesting.

The Poquoson Challenge is a one-day regatta and is all about having a good time. Boats could sail with one, two or as many as you wanted.

Yuengling was our sponsor so no one went thirsty and there were enough crabs to have people drinking cool ones and picking crabs from 6 to 12. Red Fehrle walked away, no, demolished the crabs and the competition to claim the Energizer Bunny award for picking and picking and picking. The sailors either spent the night at our cottage or at Chuck Wood's place across the creek

Nine boats participated, five of who came down from Washington Fleet 50 in support of our new fleet. The home fleet was gracious and allowed the visiting crews to take the (non) silver.

After receiving calls of "Don't start without us, we are stuck in I-95 traffic", the regatta got underway at 1500. Due to the East wind the race committee consisting of my son-in-law, Justin Morris, his son Brandon and committee boat owner Mary Beth Watt set a short windward, leeward course across the river. Thanks to the good work of the race committee, we were able to get in four races. Chandler Owen and his crew Rose Gentile and Anne Tyee who hadn't sailed in 25 years won the regatta. Second place on a tie breaker went to Frank Gallagher sailing with Mary Ann. Ron Buchanan sailing with Jeff Ullman and Kate Smith-Morse was third. Nabeel Alsalam sailed with Fred Wright and his wife, Lura, who raced for the first time. They came in fourth. Sailing with my daughter, Elizabeth I ended up fifth to lead the home fleet. Sixth place was captured by the Energizer Bunny sailing with Sue Humphey and Our Fleet Captain, Jack Shepard sailing with his wife Lynn and the Commodore of the Virginia Navy (the three square riggers at Jamestown), Eric Speth, finished seventh. My son-in-law Chuck Wood, sailing with Eric's son Warren and a member of the William & Mary sailing team ended up eighth. The youngest captain, Alise Watt, sailing with her brother Andrew could not sail the last two races due to time constraints ended up ninth.

Jim Dillard

