



PRESS RELEASE

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Lammens, Kneulman and Girling are Etchells 2007 Atlantic Coast Champs

CAN 1349 wins Etchells class in Buzzards Bay Regatta, August 3–5

SOUTH DARTMOUTH, MA—Canadian skipper Hank Lammens and his crew, Etchells boatbuilder Dirk Kneulman and Connecticut sailor Steve Girling, took the title of 2007 Atlantic Coast Champions following three days of racing, Friday through Sunday, August 3–5, on Buzzards Bay. Several boats consistently placed in the top of the 18-boat fleet through a wide range of wind conditions, but Lammens on CAN 1349 took the lead at the end of the first day and held onto it through the last race of the final day. Marblehead skipper Wade Edwards sailing USA 1221 finished four points behind Lammens in second, followed by Phil Garland in third on USA 1260.

The first day of sailing brought a solid, southerly breeze that topped out around 16 knots. After two races sailed within a remarkably tight fleet, USA 1221 was the boat to beat with two bullets, until the crew discovered they had an OCS in the second race. That first-place finish was subsequently reinstated following a redress hearing in which they argued that the OCS wasn't properly signaled by RC with a timely "X" flag. Edwards' fourth-place score in the final race of Friday bumped them out of the cumulative top spot, and Buzzards Bay local Rob Hitchcock on USA 1105 ended day one only a few points behind Edwards in third.

Saturday morning before the boats left the dock, there were predictions from locals of big breeze settling into the bay. The southerly returned, but much more moderately than anticipated. Lammens paralleled his previous day with two seconds and a bullet, while Garland slid into third when he scored a bullet in the second race of the day.

An unusual northerly breeze tried to fill in on the final day of racing, but the entire fleet struggled through two light-air races. Several frustrated skippers bailed out of the last race while the rest of the fleet settled into long downwind legs intent on finding for whispers of air. The boat to win the grueling last race of the day, USA 1304 sailed by Ralph Hertz, Sr., rounded the final windward mark and took off slowly on a beam reach all the way to the port layline while the rest of the boats struggled on hot angles down the middle of the course.

Complete scores for the 2007 Etchells Atlantic Coast Championship are available online at <http://www.buzzardsbayregatta.com/2007results/red.pdf>. The Atlantic Coast Championships were organized by the U.S. Etchells Class Association—an extension of the International Etchells Class Association (IECA) established in 1968. More information about the U.S. class is online at EtchellsNA.org. The IECA is comprised of dozens of fleets located around the world, including 34 fleets across North America. The first Etchells fleet was founded in Long Island Sound shortly after Connecticut local Skip Etchells (1911-1998) designed and built the first boats. Almost 1400 boats have been built and sailed globally since then. For more information about the IECA, visit the website at Etchells.org.