



British Columbia Multihull Society

September 2018

Dances with Wind

Ken Pepperdine



In so many ways, sailing represents a dance with the wind. Sometimes slow, sometimes fast, occasionally frightening, oftentimes not to be, when the wind leaves you all dressed up and waiting at the door. To sail, means that the wind always leads, and we can only be that partner who chooses to dance to its rhythm, there is no alternative. We wait for the wind to call the tune, and hope that we're dressed properly and that our steps are well rehearsed. It's no wonder that learning

to dance with the wind can be a lifelong quest, one that leaves more than a few behind, many of those frustrated and shopping for a bigger motor. Yet, it is with a private wink of knowing, that we witness those sailors with years of experience, who confidently engage the wind, as their partner, in an exquisite tango of time, direction and destination. Their mastery can look deceptively easy, as mastery has a way of doing. In reality, it's a long melding of preparation, equipment, experience, and time spent listening to hairs on the back of the neck. And as with many art forms, the more you do, the more you discover, the experience then deepens, as does the admiration for those who do it better.

Probably, and here I'm guessing, but I'll bet that each different watercraft has its own favorite tune to dance as well: perhaps the flamenco of a windsurfer, the symphony of the mega-yacht, the Strauss waltz of a classic sloop, or in our case, the cha cha of a small catamaran. It's also the banjo of someone's first homebuilt, the ukulele ensemble of a flock of Optimists, and the movie score of a lone offshore racer, pedal down, an arrow, shot from one horizon seeking to pierce some point on the next.

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Just as you can never touch the same river twice, the wind will always lead, but each time new, even though the destination might be the same. Nothing is to be taken for granted with a partner who can go from sweetheart to “beam me up Scotty” in an afternoon. It is that part of sailing which is addictive to some, and untenable to others, when they discover that unfortunately, on any given day, the wind may have had other plans.

Of course, added into this mix, are those unexpected jewels: hearing the breath of a whale before you see it, quiet conversation on a twinkling spinnaker run, or the delicious fatigue after a day spent sailing well, when your partner, the wind, made you work extra hard for it. Also not to be forgotten, is the sharing of occasions with



like-minded tribe members, who have also engaged with the wind in their own unique way.

I offer this, sitting at anchor semi-grateful to the technology on which I’m typing. It told us that the wind was taking the day off, and now it’s too late, for as we’ve realized, the wind changed its mind, and didn’t tweet it out. Still, it’s helpful to have guidance in this dance with the wind, and though it’s not always right, every little bit helps. For those among us who race, it’s an intimate dance, one with a long-time partner where subtleties’ make all the difference. Personally, for us, the forecast is a mannequin on which we dress a multi-day journey. The hope is to meld destinations, favorite and new, flowing like chapters in a book, which tells a story, about dances with wind.





Pub Nights @ River House Pub

Please note the new location,
5825 60th Avenue, Delta
<http://www.riverhousegroup.com/>
7:30 pm

October 16, 2018
November 20, 2018

For Sale



ABUNDANCE. Jenneau Lagoon 35 cruising Cat with all the bells n whistles. At RVicYC D53. \$189,000
Darch 250-378-7363 or Patrick 250-213-1358
Check out the web listing: <https://www.yachtworld.com/boats/1996/Lagoon-35-CCC-3142567/Victoria/Canada#.W7BKqIVKhaR>

Cow Bay Regatta and the North West Multihull championship 2018

The Bad Kitty perspective

Alec Mackenzie

The weather forecast was a little “iffy”, calling for some chance of showers, but it came through nice and sunny, driving the Cow Bay “Doctor”. The resulting winds were never strong, but never absent, allowing three full races on Saturday and two more on Sunday. Each of the five multihull races covered about 10 nautical miles, rounding Patey Rock, then either Musgrave rock or a mark off Genoa Bay before the leeward mark and back to the finish.

Fourteen multihulls entered, making for some very crowded starts and very competitive racing.

We had the usual bunch of Farrier boats with a strong showing from the States. One of those US entrants was **Son of Raven**, owned by new BCMS member Chris Sherman:



Photo by Andrew Bradley

This year we had two new competitors, the very light and fast Diam 24 trimarans from Comox.

<https://www.facebook.com/142756835903790/videos/diam24od-sailing-in-comox-canada/748449745334493/>



Photo credit: Marlene Mackenzie



Photo credit: Marlene Mackenzie

Dragonfly was in fine form:



Photo credit: Marlene Mackenzie

Dragon was here for the first time and is Duncan and Guy's new ride for next year's R2AK.

<https://teampearshapedracing.wordpress.com/author/teampearshapedracing/>



Photo credit: Marlene Mackenzie

Bad Kitty had five crew this year: Ron Tomas, Alex Tomas, Bob Davis, Alec Mackenzie and William-Patrick Blouin-Comeau.



Photo credit: Marlene Mackenzie

The races ...

Check out BCMS News @ www.bcms.bc.ca

Bad Kitty managed to get into the wrong start position at the wrong time for almost every race. This is a long time tradition (strategy?) for **Bad Kitty**. As it turned out these starts were not as bad as they seemed since they gave us ample opportunity to see how the other boats were doing and pick the most favourable course.

Bad Kitty has to really work to keep up to the trimarans in light upwind sailing, but we did quite well, usually rounding Patey Rock within a couple of minutes of the leading trimarans. As usual, Dragonfly was way ahead of all the other boats and Dragon showed her potential speed, well out in front of the rest of the fleet. Must be something about having the name "Dragon" in their names...

Two freighters were anchored in the bay and one of them was really getting into the spirit of the race, blowing its horn repeatedly whenever a competitor got close. This is the first time I have ever seen a sign of life on one of these freighters, so good to see they were having fun watching the race. On Sunday, things got a little confusing when the same freighter decided to up-anchor and leave in the middle of one race. This time his horn blowing was much more systematic (and emphatic). He did a great job of leaving without causing much trouble for the fleet.

The happy freighter behind **Dragonfly**:



Photo credit: Marlene Mackenzie

In the end, consistency seemed to win the day. The multihull fleet had one throw-out from the five-race event and the top boats were the ones with the most consistent finishes. **Dragon** came first on Corrected time, which I am sure made Guy, Duncan and crew very happy. **Dragon** is a complex trimaran with canting rig, three rudders and lifting foils, so it is taking them time to get used to this new-to-them boat and get it working at peak performance. In the following photo, they seem to have removed their center rudder in an effort to simplify the boat. It looks like their program is progressing well!



Photo by Andrew Bradley

Much to our surprise **Bad Kitty** came second, but it did come down to consistency and, other than our starts; we didn't leave much on the race course. Sailing with five crew helped because we could hit the turning marks hot and get everything configured for the next leg at exactly the right time. We were also able to make up for our less than stellar upwind performance with some really hot downwind sailing, something **Bad Kitty** has refined over many years.

Geneva, a frequent podium finisher came third, sailed well as always by Eric Pesty.



Photo by Andrew Bradley

The secret to Eric's good performance on the race course:



Photo credit: Marlene Mackenzie

Geneva was closely followed by **Son of Raven** in fourth and **Dragonfly** in fifth place.

The happy podium crews:



Photo credit: Marlene Mackenzie

Complete results are here:

https://www.cowbay-regatta.ca/2018/results/CowBayRegatta_2018_Multi.htm

Last, but not least, the best prize of the event:

The Cowichan Bay Sailing Association Trophy for best regatta performance by an association member goes to... **Bad Kitty!**

The trophy came with a 40 ounce bottle of rum that the crew of **Bad Kitty** will have to replace before next year's award. This bottle didn't last long and was the start of a whole other story...



Photo credit: Marlene Mackenzie

Once again, a great time was had by all. Great sailing, great people, great food, great drinks, and great weather - what's not to like?

BCMS turns 50 next year!



Raft up Port Browning, September 2, 2018...



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