

Albacore championships make a big splash

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Ted Krug photo

Anne White and Jean Paul Bureaud, sail to a win during the 2007 provincial Albacore Championships held in Parry Sound last weekend.

PARRY SOUND—“On a scale of one to 10, I’d say the sailing here is a 12,” said an Albacore sailor as he came in off the Big Sound. Twenty-four boats registered for the 2007 Albacore Ontario Championships hosted by Sail Parry Sound on the weekend. Several crews and their families made it their holiday destination. Six boats arrived from Maryland, one from California, five from Ottawa, and the rest from Toronto. Regatta Chair Larry Woolner described the event as, “a test for the new Sail Parry Sound regatta facility. After holding even a world championship on borrowed premises, the volunteers were looking forward to a regatta based at the sailing centre.” With town approval, the racers used the Old Town Beach for dolly launch and haul-out each day. Racing started on Saturday morning, the fleet led by the race committee boats carrying huge yellow marks for the racecourse. The deep waters of the Big Sound pose a special challenge for the mark-setting volunteers, placing anchors in 350 to 600 feet of water—and hauling them up again. The Albacore is constructed of fibreglass laminate or moulded plywood, 15 feet long, with a five-foot beam, and centreboard draft of 4 feet 2 inches. Some are finished with the high gloss of the classic wooden boat. To the Albacore sailors, nothing is more important than the quality of the racing. Ted Chisholm, former racing director at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, observed that Race Officer John Stothers and the race committee volunteers provided well-organized racing over the two days on the water.

□□ “On land, almost 50 volunteers were welcome and registration team and harbourmasters; some directed traffic, others prepared food, some did overnight security, others helped with parking and trailers, to anticipate our guests’ needs at Sail Parry Sound,” said Marianne King-Wilson, land arrangements chair. “The volunteers and the town gave them a warm Georgian Bay Country welcome.” Both days had at least twelve knots of wind, and the sailors were delighted. As Adam Nicholson said, “We had wind, waves and good weather. □ Sail Parry Sound did great job, and excellent hospitality.” “I look forward to another regatta in Parry Sound, and highly recommend it, as one that will become a must! “ Overall winner of the 2007 Ontario Albacore Championship was

Nauti-Girl with Ann White at the helm and Jean Paul Bureauud as crew. They took home the silver cup for the Ontario Albacore Championship, and they were presented with the Bill Beatty Trophy by Sail Parry Sound. Second was The Leslie Spit Swallow, with skipper Allan Measor and crew Richard Piercey. Third was Hydrophiliac with skipper Raines Koby and crew Abby MacInnes. Prizes were stone from Sail Parry Sound, sandblasted with the Albacore and Sail Parry Sound logos. Before the racers left town, there was talk of the future. Albacore Rear Commodore, Sandy Swiatlowski, had already spoken to Sail Parry Sound about returning next year for their Canadian Championships in September 2008. Wrapping up the awards presentation, Albacore International President Peter Duncan thanked Sail Parry Sound for a weekend of superb racing and hospitality, and said, "I recommend that the Albacore Worlds be held at Sail Parry Sound."