

“Island Boyz” 2010 Castleberry-Robertson Regatta

A few funny things happen in every regatta, but the island incident of 2010 Castleberry Roberson Regatta will be remembered like no other.

Ed Durant, trying for his 4th C-R in a row, was skipper E-Scow GA-8, the obvious favorite to win the regatta. His crew of Jerry O’Meara, Mike O’Meara, and John Lovin were all experienced sailors as well. The regatta was on the usual weekend, Memorial Day Saturday and Sunday. The weather was unstable, going from cloudy to rain to sunny, all within an hour. It was a hot and muggy day on the water, with winds from 6 mph to 10 from the southeast. The field consisted of 5 E-Scows, 6 C-Scows, and 4 MC-Scows were in the field.

The first race was not too kind to Ed Durant and GA-8. The team of Jeff and Beth Annis in CH-1, a C Scow, had finished about a boat length behind them, making them the obvious winner of race one, due to the handicap scoring system in use. The E-Scow, being a much faster boat, needed to win that race by several minutes, not by several seconds.

Race two was to be a one-time around race, starting around buoy 5, going to buoy number 3 to windward, then to buoy 9, and finishing back upwind near buoy 5. After the start, the E’s got a good jump on the pack and four of them were on the downwind using their asymmetrical spinnakers and sailing the best angles to acquire speed. Keeping the boats on beam reaches entailed weaving back and forth to maintain the speed and steering towards the mark, depending on the downwind shifts. About two-thirds down the run, all four scows were in the lead and then came the “island” problem. Three of the E’s chose to take a turn and pass to windward of “Rat Island”, which is to the west of buoy 9. Ed Durant, in what he described as a unanimous decision, decided to go to the north of the island. So, he continued on port tack past the island, planning to gybe to starboard to sail a speedy angle to number 9. Only one problem ensued. There was a large wind shadow on the leeward side of that island. GA-8 made the turn and about that time they hit the wind shadow. The boat absolutely stopped dead in it’s tracks. By any estimate, the boat sat for a minimum of ten minutes. Sadly, that put GA-8 in the position of last for that race. That fifteen points that would spell doom to Ed’s effort to win his 4th Castleberry-Roberson in a row.

Saturday night, after libations of unusual proportion, a couple of daring amateur artists decided to do some late night work for CH-8. It occurred to them that the boat had never been named. So they had an idea for a name....”Island Boyz”. So off they went and they found the boat sitting right where they had seen it last. It was the first boat right beside the west ramp. Even the tool box labeled “CH-8” was right behind it. So they went to work with a real flare and several feet of blue electrician’s tape. It was in the island “tiki” style of print. We will call the signage experts Steve and Brian.

However, the joke was on them. They had applied the name to the wrong boat! To make it worse, the boat they named was one third the property of one of the impromptu sign makers, Brian Slater himself.