

CORK 2011 Sportboat Regatta

A small, but enthusiastic fleet of Ultimate 20s came to Kingston, Ontario for CORK this weekend (August 26-28) in winds strongly influenced by the approach of Hurricane Irene. Instead of the usual Kingston breeze of 15 knots SW every afternoon, Irene was producing a northerly flow down the west side of the storm. On Friday that meant good racing in moderate SW breeze after the thermal kicked in, then a light SW on Saturday that died

later in the afternoon as Irene's influence over-powered it. Sunday morning brought us 25, gusting 35 from the north, so we went out to give it a try, but decided 13 under main alone was more sporty than we needed, so we headed back to the Portsmouth Tavern for the Prize Giving.



We had 4 races Friday and 3 Saturday, giving us 7 for a drop. The racing was tight, with lots of close crosses and everybody getting some good finishes. André Labelle and his crew Daniel Galarneau and Mario Bernier on Low Rider were first more often than the rest of us to take the yellow flag. Rick Sellens with Laura Tattersall and Carole Lebrun were second on Dragon Bait. Dave Crall with Bill Mcalister and Monty Shelton took third on Honour.



One of the interesting parts of our mixed fleet was racing against an Antrim 27, Tantrim, the big brother to the U20, both designed by Jim Antrim. In the first race the Tantrim crew provided us with a fine example of alternative spinaker flying techniques.

After racing we enjoyed a BBQ for the sportboat fleet at Rick and Laura's, convenient to the Kingston Blues Festival taking place downtown. We all agreed to work on our U20 friends to join us for the fun of CORK in Kingston next year when the regular westerlies should be back.

Many thanks to Graham Dougal and his RC team for getting us as many good races as they could in the conditions, and to the out of town U20 crews for making the trip.

