

# 2018 Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat National Championship

## Hosted by the Bass River Yacht Club

### By Kenneth W. Rodgers

The Bass River Yacht Club was pleased to host the 2018 Leo J. Telesmanick Beetle Cat National Regatta from August 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. A total of twenty-three Beetles participated, with eight Bass River Beetles “on the line,” six were with Bass River skippers and two were with visiting skippers in loaned/rented boats. Seventeen Beetles had visiting skippers at the helm. We also matched Bob Barto with a crew member, Bob Hawes, who is NEBCBA Chairman. The weather cooperated with our schedule. The Race Committee was able to complete five races on Saturday and one on Sunday, in spite of the threat of a predicted thunder storm heading our way for Sunday morning.

Robert Churchill and Matthew Fitzsimmons served as the Co-Chairmen of the 2018 Leo J. Telesmanick on behalf of the Bass River Yacht Club. The Club provided support through a broad array of standing Committee Chairs, their Committee members and other Club volunteers. Betsy Kamborian was in charge of the souvenirs given to each skipper. The souvenirs were canvas bags and drawstring backpacks with the 2018 Leo event printed on them.

On Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, we sponsored a Racing Clinic offered by Tim Fallon with a series of mini races held in Bass River. Tim felt that these races afforded a good “tune up” for the skippers and their crews, especially regarding starting tactics and building hull speed. The mini races offered opportunities to provide individual coaching opportunities, both on and off the water. Tim felt that the Racing Clinic was good for those who were able to attend and good for the fleet to improve the racing skills of those who compete in the Leo. Launching services were provided at the ramp on Uncle Freemans Road across Bass River in West Dennis. Assistance in launching and rigging was provided to visiting skippers by BRYC members and Bill Womack with Beetle, Inc. Storage of trailers and parking was provided at the BRYC parking lot and surrounding area. Matt Fitzsimmons and Bob Churchill worked with the local harbormasters and their assistants to identify moorings that were not being used by the owners. We contacted the owners and obtained permission for visiting skippers to use the designated moorings during the Leo. We were able to arrange moorings in Bass River for all the visiting boats. No visiting skipper had to “throw out an anchor” for their nightly mooring. We were also able to arrange for two Bass River Beetles to be rented/loaned to visiting skippers who were not able to bring their boats. Friday afternoon and early evening we offer early registration and an informal social gathering at the Yacht Club.

Saturday morning begin with check-in for those who still had not been able to register. The Skipper’s meeting was held at the Club at 9:00 AM, with a harbor start at 9:15 AM and the first signal on the race course on Nantucket Sound at 10:00 AM. We completed four races before breaking for lunch, since the Race Committee Chairman was anxious about the weather predicted for Sunday. Betsy Kamborian graciously offered the Club’s volunteers a place to serve lunch on her lawn located near the mouth of the River. Beetle Cats nestled in a long row on Betsy’s beach has become an iconic view of our beloved boats. We were able to complete one more race after lunch. Everyone made their way back to their moorings and rendezvoused at the Club for cocktails, the New England Beetle Cat Board Association Annual Meeting, and dinner. A raw shellfish bar was offered for all to enjoy. Entrée choices were

swordfish or steak, along with hamburgers for those who wanted a smaller meal. Cocktails were included.

Sunday activities began with a harbor start at 9:00 AM and the first signal on the Sound at 9:45 AM. We were able to complete one additional race Sunday morning, permitting us to have six races scored with the lowest result excluded in determining the final standing. All boats returned to their moorings and then the Club for lunch and the Awards Ceremony and Final Results. A summary of the Final Results is presented below:

<b>Divisions</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>
Overall	Tim Fallon Wild Harbor	Scott Bearse Barnstable	Ery Largay Wianno
Women	Ery Largay Winno	Karen Fallon Wild Harbor	Olympia Bowker Wild Harbor
Men	Tim Fallon Wild Harbor	David Fallon Wild Harbor	Tim Wadlow (Tied 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) Wianno
Juniors	Greta Shuster Edgewood	Alexandra Catlin Dublin Lake Club	No entry
Old Salts	Stephen Culhane Atlantic	Kate Grinberg Independent	No entry
Ancient Mariners	Scott Bearse Barnstable	Steve Glovinsky Weekapaug	Rick Crawford Bass River

After the Awards Ceremony, we helped the visiting skippers haul and derig their Beetles and preparing for their trips home. George Shuster sent me the following Email that best summarizes his family's appreciation for all the support that we provided to our visiting skippers, their crews and other guests:

"We are back home on Rhode Island, reflecting on what a terrific weekend we all had at BRYC. Your club was a superb host, from pre-event communication through help hauling boats this afternoon. The Race Committee was quick and showed good judgment, the Social Committee and canteen served excellent food right on time, and the many volunteers could not have set a more welcoming scene. We thank you for a highlight of our sailing year. Best Regards, George, Stephanie, Greta, and Georgia Shuster."

Hosting a Leo J. Telesmanick Regatta is always a pleasure for the Bass River Yacht Club members. Having a visiting skipper confirm his family's appreciation just affirms that it was all worth the effort.