

Burgee – July 2011

Nothing Luffing When Lassies Race

By Diane Baynard

The Luffing Lassies have been very busy as our 2010-2011 sailing season winds to a close. First and foremost on the last month's calendar was the FWSA Championships held on Friday May 13 in St. Petersburg. On a picture perfect day for sailing with good winds, the Lassies participated in two classes – Sonars and Rhodes. The Sonar class race was a real nail-biter to the end. Congratulations to Ursula Olson, Gillian Whatmore and Fran Mericle for winning second place. Our Rhodes teams swept first and second place. Congratulations to our new FWSA champions, Jane Owens, Lisa Dodds, and Dottie Schell for winning first place and to Joan Johnson, Cathy Cartier and Jib Browning for taking second. A special thank you to Bridget Smith, Robin Wall, and Renate Mamula for accompanying our Captain Linda Schwartz to cheer on the Lassies.

To celebrate the end of a spectacular sailing season, the Lassies enjoyed a great pot-luck lunch graciously hosted by Rita Steele on May 26. Thank you to Rita for opening your lovely home to us. The new Lassies entertained us all with a skit based on the TV show Jeopardy. Highlights included Gail Seidman and Jacki Booker dressed as new Prammers, complete with bloody knees and a wealth (or was it a dearth?) of sailing knowledge. We also presented many awards to our distinguished Lassies. Highlights included Lisa Dodds, recipient of the Backbone Award, Ursula Olson, recipient of the Captain's Award and Linda Schwartz, recipient of the Suzanne Burt Memorial Award. Congratulations Lassies!

The afternoon gave us a chance to say thank you for a job well done to our outgoing Lassies board. We have benefited immensely from the leadership of our Captain Linda Schwartz, our First Officer Linda Tiffan, our Secretary Lisa Dodds and our Treasurers Margaret Swift and Gail Seidman. Our fleet Captains, Jane Owens for Prams and Dottie Schell for Sunfishes, always kept us in line, and with a ready smile always on their faces.

Memorial Day May 30 brought many Lassies out to participate in the always fun Race Around Lido. The day started with a fun sail to north Lido Beach where we enjoyed some games. When the whistle blew, the race began not with the goal of being the first back to the Squadron, but rather to be the racer closest to the time you estimated to return. The pesky tides through Big Pass slowed us all down to the point of walking and dragging our boats, but we persevered - especially Kimberly Duplissey who bravely captained a 420 with her family aboard. A fabulous barbeque and funny prizes organized by Michelle Lee, Julie Forbes Burnett, Cindy Clifton and Chris Ranney ended a great day.

The Lassies also proudly swept the Bikini Cup held June 12. Congratulations to Ursula Olson and Linda Schwartz joined by Donna Steele for winning first place in Ursula's SR Max Necessary Evil followed by Michelle Lee captaining the Sonar with Julie Forbes Burnett and Diane Banyard as her fearless crew.

Thank you to all who made this a fabulous season for the Luffing Lassies, with a special shout-out to our Committee Chairs. There are too many wonderful women to mention by name, but please know your tireless efforts are truly appreciated. We would be adrift without your help.

For the upcoming 2011-2012 season, we are looking to improve our Sunfish fleet. If you have a Sunfish lying around unused and would like to donate or sell it to the Lassies, we can give her a second life on the water. Also, please see our ad for our annual Learn to Sail Class to be held in August. Our contact information is in the ad. We always welcome new members for what promises to be a great 2011-2012 season.



