

SAILING

Local entries shine in 33rd annual Governor's Cup

Donnybrook captures line honors, Chain Shot claims Waldschmitt Trophy

By BILL WAGNER
Staff Writer

Annapolis-area entries cleaned up in the 33rd running of the St. Mary's College of Maryland Governor's Cup.

Donnybrook, a 72-foot sled skippered by Jim Muldoon, captured line honors for the overnight distance race from Annapolis to historic St. Mary's City. Driven by 16-20 knot winds, *Donnybrook* crossed the line just before midnight — making this one of the fastest racers in history.

Muldoon's custom-designed racer recognizable by its jet-black hull and shamrocks, completed the 70-mile course in less than six hours.

This year marked the debut of a Special Olympics class in the Governor's Cup and blind sailor Ben Collins crewed aboard *Donnybrook*, which also placed first in PHRF A0 class with a corrected time of 7 hours, 50 minutes, 22 seconds. Collins, who also has a cognitive disability, took the wheel as *Donnybrook* crossed the line on the St. Mary's River.

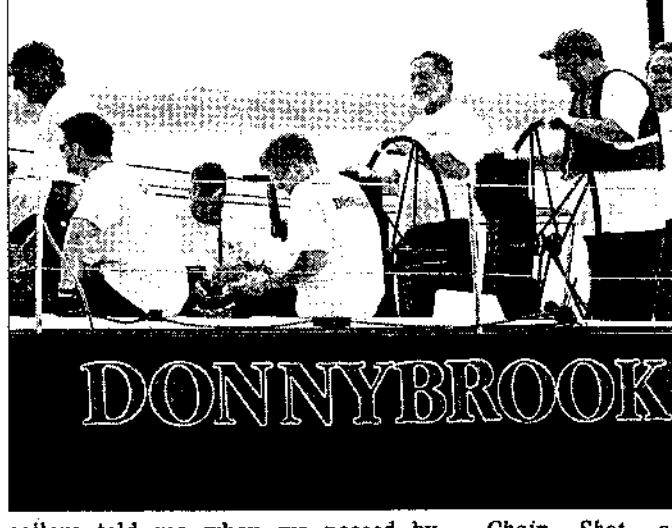


Photo by John Bidahl

— For The Capital

Special Olympics sailor Ben Collins, second from rear, takes the helm of *Donnybrook* during the Governor's Cup. Skipper Jim Muldoon handles the other wheel while tactician Willy Keyworth looks on. *Donnybrook* captured line honors and topped PHRF A0 for the 70-mile overnight distance race.

sailors told me when we passed by Thomas Point Lighthouse and Solomon's Island," said Collins, a native of Rockville, Md. "I want to sail onboard *Donnybrook* again."

Annapolis resident Todd Croteau, who regularly races catamarans with Collins, said completing an overnight distance race takes the Special Olympian to a new level.

"This race brings Ben up to the next step in sailing," said Croteau, who was

Chain Shot, an Aerodyne 38 owned by Lee and Pauline Jerry of Crownsville, captured the Waldschmitt Award for best in fleet. *Chain Shot* edged *Valkyrie* by one minute, 29 seconds to win PHRF A1 class, which had the smallest corrected time interval between the first and fifth place finishers.

Wildfire, a J/29 sailed by Heidi Bay of West River, picked up the Alumni Trophy that goes to the top boat that has two crew members who are St.

Mary's College graduates.

Pressure Drop, skippered by J.C. Jackson of Arnold, topped PHRF A2 in impressive fashion. Jackson and crew defeated Don Wagner's *Der Baron* by more than 10 minutes on corrected time.

Smidge's captain, Maury Benbow of Yardly, Pa., was honored with the Bickell Award, named for a racer who lost his life in a tragic accident sailing in the 1994 Governor's Cup.

The trophy is awarded to the skipper and crew whose finish position shows the most improvement over last year's performance. The skipper must have commanded the same boat both years.

"The Bickell Award is a fitting memorial for a man who enjoyed no greater challenge than making a boat and its crew into a winning combination," said Torre Meringolo, vice president for the SMCM Office of Development.

The Patuxent Partnership (TPP) trophy was awarded to Elan's captain Gary Shaw of Bowie, Md.

To be eligible for the trophy, a boat's crew must include two employees from a TPP-member company, active-duty military, or DoD civilian personnel, and have the highest-class

Governor's Cup Results

(Boat name, skipper, hometown, class)

Multihull:

1. Alhodon, Kyoshi Mizuuchi, Rockville, 48:34
2. Wild Card, Tim Layne, Glen Burnie
3. Triangle, Gary Spesard, Woodbridge

PHRF A0

1. *Donnybrook*, Jim Muldoon, Washington, 50:22
2. Altair, Tom Johnson, Annapolis, Md.

PHRF A1

1. Chain Shot, Lee Jerry, Crownsville
2. Valkyrie, David Andril, Arlington, Va.
3. Esprit de Corps II, Douglas Josber, NY., 7:58:14

PHRF A2

1. Pressure Drop, J.C. Jackson, Arnold, 08
2. Der Baron, Don Wagner, Shady Side, 48:14
3. Singularity, Chuck Shortz, Du Kirk, NY., 7:46:55

PHRF A3

1. Sail # 999, John White, Severna Park, 23:15
2. Kestrel, Albert Holt, Annapolis, Md.
3. Incommunicado, Ed Tracey, Severna Park, 7:45:30

PHRF B1

1. Smidge, Maury Benbow, Yardly, Pa.
2. Elan, Gary Shaw, Bowie, Md., 7:46:55
3. Hurricane Kelley, John Stefank, Md., 7:46:55

PHRF C/D

1. Blink, Dave Sharp, Philadelphia, Pa.
2. Caribbean Soul, David McAleer, Washington, 7:42:37
3. Windemere, Ted Diehl, Baltimore, Md.

PHRF N

1. Elusive, John Littrell, Gaithersburg, Md.
2. Christelle, Moe Giguere, Vienna, Va.
3. Vigilant, J.T. Baker, Great Mills, Md.