

**Juana Good Time Regatta
September 11, 12, 13, 2009
Juana's Pagodas, Navarre Beach, Florida**

Colorful sails painted the Santa Rosa Sound just outside Juana's Pagodas in Navarre Beach, Florida for the 19th annual Juana Good Time Regatta. And a good time it surely was! We knew it would be a record-breaking turnout when we received 45 pre-registrants before September 1, and we were not disappointed. Over 70 multihulls, including plenty of Hobie 16's, 18's, 20's, Nacras, Prindles, a couple large, Piver trimarans, and a half-dozen cruising cats showed up for the fun. We added a windsurf group again this year and a handful of windsurfers partied along, enjoying the surfing and camaraderie.

Smells of coffee and freshly baked Sailors' Grill sticky buns and cinnamon rolls permeated the air as the racers packed into the big Pagoda for the 10am skippers' meeting Saturday. After the race committee finished with the general course info, the safety boat captains were introduced and informed to keep the sailors safe and happy but to keep their distance from all racers unless invited. Coolers filled with icy beers and waters were, as usual, on hand for the safety boat captains to disperse to the racers if desired. Safety is priority -- just before FUN!

Weekend weather forecasts predicted high percentages of rain and lots of thunderstorms, but the gods were once again on our sides, and the sailing was great! Saturday, although gloomy and drizzly, was warm and quite breezy. Windsurfs

and multihulls filled the waterway as far as the eye could see between Juana's and Pensacola Beach, masts sharply leaning, hulls flying, and not a lightning spark to be seen!

While a live band warmed up for Saturday evening's revelry, hungry sailors savored Sailors' Grill's chicken and ribs masterpiece spread. Timing was perfect, as just upon dispersing the final door prize, (And I don't think anyone left without walking away with something!) Mother Nature let her rip! The band gave their 1, 2, 3 taps on the drum as a start up, and the Pagoda had a captured audience! Torrential rain cooled the air and added to the over-all festive mood of the weekend.

The breezes were lighter Sunday, but the sun shone brightly, and the racers were ready for a dry-out day after Saturday's excitement. Shorter courses in sunny weather lead to a higher demand for cold beverages from the Safety boats. After Saturday's demanding job of helping needy sailors right boats, etc.... the safety boat captains were happy to oblige.

Videos of the weekend race rolled continuously as subs from our local favorite sub shop were devoured Sunday afternoon. The one-man-island-band gave up the stage to The race committee, while hand-crafted pottery mugs were awarded to those so deserving. Then, some silly announcements and a promise to do it all over again next year, the weekend after Labor Day, as usual, for the 20th Juana Good Time Regatta! Be there or don't call yourself a multihull sailor!

By Juana Rudzki

