

For immediate release:
Walsh earns Top Honors at 2011 Buzzards Bay Regatta

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South Dartmouth, MA

Ryan Walsh of Dartmouth, MA overcame challenging conditions to dominate the J24 fleet and win the Buzzards Bay Trophy for the Top Performance in the 39th Annual Buzzards Bay Regatta, held August 5, 6, and 7th in the waters off Padanaram, MA and hosted by the New Bedford Yacht Club. Racing with a cast on a broken leg suffered in a recent accident, Walsh finished no poorer than 2nd throughout the 10 races with wind conditions ranging from a benign 5-7 knots on Friday to over 25 knot gusts on Sunday's closing races. "The toughest part of racing was staying focused with the changing weather. Friday was all about keeping the bow down and letting the foils work. Saturday, trying to stay flat but not stop with the waves and Sunday was holding on upwind and opening up your eyes occasionally to make sure I was going toward the mark and then the fun kite ride going downwind made you want to go back upwind so you could set the kite for another rip down." Walsh also won the J-24 class in 2010 at the BBR in Marion.

Weather played a significant role in this year's BBR resulting in cancellation of racing on two circles on Sunday due to Small Craft Warnings and building winds and seas throughout the day. Competitors in 420, Laser, Laser Radial, and Vanguard 15 classes stayed at the docks on Sunday while competitors in J80, J24, 505, F-18, and PHRF fleets went out to battle in white capped seas in Buzzards Bay. Combined with the fickle breeze of Friday along with the steady Southwester of Saturday's competition, racers earning class championships in the classes raced on Sunday showed prowess in the widest possible range of sailing conditions. Tyler Morse of Wianno Yacht Club on Cape Cod captured the 505 class honors along with the 505 East Coast Championships while Hank Lammens of the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron sailed to victory in the 12 boat Etchells Fleet, and garnered Atlantic Coast Championship honors in doing so.

With an experienced crew of offshore sailors, the tough Sunday conditions allowed Bob Warren's Dufour 38 "in Deep" sailing out of Mattapoisett YC to capture the PHRF Cruising 1 trophy over NBYC's Jonathan Bier on "Jabberwocky" a C&C 99 and Albert Signorella helming the J-100 "Sundance", also out of NBYC. The PHRF Cruising 2 class was won by Dick Hitchcock on the J-30 "Dragon" another New Bedford Yacht Club entry.

Other winners included Ted Herlihy on "Gut Feeling" in PHRF Racing 2; Esteban Forrer of the California's Coronado Yacht Club in the 140 boat 420 Fleet; Daniel DeBello of the American Yacht Club of Rye, NY in the Laser Class; Bob Gleason of the Beverly Yacht Club won the Multi-Hull class on "Tri-Me"; Bruno Pasquinelli of the Fort Worth Boat Club of Texas claimed class honors in the J-80 fleet.

Next year's Buzzards Bay Regatta will be held August 3-5 at the Beverly Yacht Club in Marion, MA. For more information and complete results go to www.buzzardsbayregatta.com . For photography please contact Fran Grennon of Spectrum Photo spectrumphoto@aol.com