



READY - SET - GO

Splashdown Raft-up 2014 – April 5th

Spring provided two sunny cool days between rain days allowing the early season sailors to convene at Worton Creek's Blind Duck Cove to officially start the 2014 season. The NSHSA Sailors able to complete the launch commissioning sufficiently to bend sail against the wind were:

Champagne Silent Running Narsilion Elsie's Phantasie

Saturday's weather was sunny, cool and winds were NW 20 gusting to 30+ knots providing a thrill ride for this first sail of the season. Only a small patch of sail canvas was needed to achieve speeds of 6+ knots.

Narsilion and *Silent Running* were bound to the hook in the snug safety of Blind Duck Cove anchorage, *Champagne* took a slip at WCM because of forecasted night temps to drop into the low 30s.

Elsie's Phantasie decided to update their electronic charts at the WC entrance by searching for the newly shoaled areas from the winter storms. They found a shoal just off 'G3' and stayed most of the Saturday night standing watch in four feet of water while the winds continued to howl out of the northwest. BoatUS Tow arrived around 2200 hours to relieve them of their duty. We are considering naming the shoal "Elsie's" in their honor.

Unaware of the excitement taking place at 'G3', the traditional 'Peep' festivities were underway aboard *Silent Running* and *Narsilion*. This year's celebration did not include 'Peep Jousting' (AKA Peep Roasting); instead the Peeps were part of a 'Soap Box Derby' Car Build Contest.



The contestants were given a qualification test before initiating the Soap Box Derby Peep Challenge. The Qualification Test consisted of four questions:

- 1) How do you put a giraffe in a refrigerator?
- 2) How do you put an elephant in a refrigerator?
- 3) Which animal did not attend the party held by the Lion King?
- 4) How do you cross a river full of crocodiles

Champagne's Marc was the clear winner on the Qualification Test, correctly answering two of the four questions.

The contestants in the 'Soap Derby Car Build' were given: One Twinkie, marsh mellow, pretzels, toothpicks, and a Peep.

Silent Running's Bill's Peep Car was the voted #1 because of realism and attention to detail.

The First Place Trophies were the highly desirable 'Rubber Duckies', and presented to Bill and Marc. However, not to be outdone by the guys, Linda and Frederique experimented with floating their 'Soap Box Derby' entries. Their findings were:

Peeps can swim
Toothpicks, Pretzels, Marsh Mellow float
Twinkies sink like a stone

No awards were given for their efforts.

As the daylight faded, temperatures dropped as expected. The cabins were kept warm and cozy by cooking pasta, baking an apple pie and celebrating *Silent Running's* Bill birthday – We missed the Captains on *Elsie's Phantasie* who were standing watch at 'G3'.



Sunday morning brought a brilliant blue sky and calming winds.....it was a good start for 2014.