

Tomales Bay delivers perfect Winds for 110 Nationals

– Michael Sporer, Regatta Chair. Photos by Tim Zraggen.



The International 110 Class convened at the Inverness Yacht Club for their 2026 Nationals which started with a BBQ Sunday night, ended Thursday with pizza, but the highlights were the gourmet breakfast, lunch and dinners served by the IYC volunteers in the days between.

This would be the first time Fleets 19 (Pacific Northwest) and 14 (New England) would compete. The regatta had 19 boats on the line; four teams from Fleet 19, five from Fleet 14 and ten local teams (Fleet 56). In the top 5 finishers all 3 regions were represented. Tomales Bay served up some excellent winds resulting in a challenging and well contested competition.

Monday gave a southerly breeze of 8-10 knots for two races. In the first, Steve Clark's risky port tack off the start paid off, with Steve, Bren, and Joe trading the lead before Joe Berkeley and Linda Epstein in a borrowed boat pulled ahead to take 1st place. The second race opened with a minor start-line collision and closed with Fritz Lanzinger and Kris Bundy sailing Grumpy #752 beating father-son Zig and Stazi Burzycki sailing Flicker #757 with Joe and Linda third.



Tuesday's 1st attempt was abandoned when the wind died a few minutes after the gun, but a fresh southerly filled in for a restart that Fritz and Chris again led comfortably. The Gold Cup race that followed saw a general recall and a contentious mark rounding. Fritz and Chris ended with two bullets and the father-son team Erik and Blake Bentzen sailing Clear Sky #751 had the next best performance that day.



Wednesday's Annual General Membership Meeting had a lively discussion about the health and sustainability of the class



including the real-time, on the water experiments at this regatta to compare jib size and sheeting angle. Wednesday racing saw Fritz and Chris with 3 points, Erik and Blake also getting 3 points, with Bren Meyer and Erik Menzel sailing Ladybug #300 adding 7 points to their total.



After 6 of the 7 total races Kris and Fritz had a lock on 1st place so they chose not to sail. Only 2 points separated 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Despite finishing 1st in the final Race 7, Bren and Erik ended 3rd overall, only one point behind Erik and Blake in 2nd place. David West and Tony Basso on "Gunsmoke" #693 were 3rd in the final race and fifth for the regatta, as it was not enough to get ahead of Joe and Linda who held onto 4th overall.

Also worth noting that five of the teams were family members racing together, two teams had women skippers, four had women crew. Several teams had previously won the Nationals in the last decade, but Chris Waddell, class champion in 1975, returned after a hiatus to rejoin the competition. The most beautiful boat was "Rhombus" #701, built by SF legend Hank Easom, which trailered from Port Angeles, WA, sailed by Eric Taylor and Eric Lesch; the boat travelling farthest was "Good Trouble" #756, sailed by Steve Clark, who drove from Rhode Island, with local crew Del Olsen.



Rhombus #701

Looking to the Future

Leading up to this regatta the class has been wrestling with fleet health and sustainability, as described in the [June 1 'Lectronics Latitude](#), and was debating how to redefine the class genoa. A conclusion is near, as described by Technical Chair Ross Weene, "The 110 was designed with three headsails to suit a range of conditions. Not every sail can be optimal in all windspeeds and sea states, but we are seeing that teams in the West have gravitated towards the #2 for heavy wind, visibility and boathandling. Northeast has for many years favored the larger #3 for performance in light-medium wind, but recognizes the advantages of the #2 and is open to adapting." The discussions also opened up opportunities to improve pointing, ergonomics and ease of handling. The 110 Class remains passionate about "the original sportboat" and sustaining the legacy of its designer, C. Raymond Hunt.



The first four prototype 110s were introduced in 1939. Since then over 500 were produced, including 3 different fiberglass versions. In 2026 we had the opportunity to see two new "kit" boats compete, developed independently within Fleets 14 and 19. The kits offer the opportunity to take an existing 110 which may be beyond repair and reusing the keel, rudder and rig. "Good Trouble" #756 is constructed of CNC cut plywood with detailed instructions and can be purchased from Chesapeake Lightcraft, or the files can be made available to the CNC shop of your choice. The PNW kit from TurnPoint Design (www.turnpointdesign.com) resulting in Flicker #757 takes a similar approach, but largely constructed of glass/foam panels that are CNC cut.





The 110 was introduced as "unsinkable" based on the mandatory floatation requirement. Through the course of time, with the addition of bulkheads, these boats have become "self-rescuing," however one could not continue racing until the boats were bailed out. This latest generation of boats have been designed to be pushed to the limit and, if swamped, be able to immediately recover and continue racing. The 110 is an interesting class which is One-Design yet also has adapted over time since its inception and will continue to do so to meet the needs of the membership.

Complete regatta results can be found at below and at 110class.com.

Results:

	SAILORS	SN	NAME	Club	NET	TOTAL	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
1	Kris Bundy Fritz Lanzinger	752	Grumpy	110 Fleet 19	8	26	2	1	1	1	1	2	[DNC:18]
2	Erik Bentzen Blake Bentzen	751	Clear Sky	Poulsbo YC	18	27	[9]	6	5	2	2	1	2
3	Brendan Meyer Erik Menzel	300	Lady Bug	Inverness YC	19	24	4	4	3	[5]	4	3	1
4	Joe Berkeley Linda Epstein	632	White Knuckles	Hull YC	25	33	1	3	2	[8]	3	8	8
5	David West Tony Basso	693	Gunsmoke	Inverness YC	28	36	3	[8]	7	4	5	6	3
6	Zigmond Burzycki Stasi Burzycki	757	Flicker	Port Madison YC	37	48	5	2	9	[11]	8	4	9
7	Stephen Clark Del Olsen	756	Good Trouble	Bristol YC	46	63	6	9	10	3	6	12	[RET:17]
8	Stewart Craig Troy Zangle	753	Oremus	Hull YC	47	64	11	5	4	9	14	[RET:17]	4
9	Eric Taylor Eric Lesch	701	RHOMBUS	Port Townsend Sailing Association	51	63	7	10	11	[12]	9	7	7
10	Ross Weene Eli Slater	239	Cat's Paw	Bristol YC & Amesbury Mafia	53	66	12	[13]	12	6	12	5	6
11	Tom Craig Maggie Zangle	271	Miracles Happen	Hull YC	53	68	8	12	8	[15]	7	13	5
12	Michael Sporer Daniel Maloney	142	Nomodoma	Inverness YC	55	70	10	[15]	6	7	11	9	12
13	James Saarman Michael Vurek	448	Smart Shoes	Inverness YC	67	84	13	11	[17]	10	13	10	10
14	Ann Cardwell Lewis Suze Levere	450	Silver Surfer	Inverness YC	82	99	16	7	16	[17]	17	15	11
15	Leonard Dolhert Aaron Fowler	687	Sugar Magnolia	Inverness YC	83	101	15	[RET:18]	15	14	10	14	15
16	Eric Stassevitch Jacob Butler	7	Honey Ryder	Inverness YC	83	100	[17]	14	13	16	16	11	13
17	David Wallace Cynthia Gerlinger	331	Javelin	Inverness YC	86	103	14	16	14	13	15	[RET:17]	14
18	Christopher Longaker Kathy Schneir	681	Unbeatable Harold	Inverness YC	104	123	[19]	17	18	19	18	16	16
19	Christopher Waddell Paul Shakeshaft	430	Ad Lib	Inverness YC	108	127	18	RET:18	[19]	18	19	RET:17	DNC:18

Tomales Bay:

