



Press Release Sept 25, 2018

Block Island Community Sailing Member Appreciation and Awards Picnic brought good weather and enthusiastic sailors to the Block Island Boat Basin. Skippers Don Coxe and Henry duPont get top honors.

Last Sunday, marked the end Summer Sailing Season but just the beginning of an exciting Fall Sailing Season for Block Island's affordable sailing organization, Block Island Community Sailing, Inc which honored its members and supporters with a Family Picnic, an introductory sailing experience in our Raven 24 sloops, and with an award presentation for the BICS Regattas they held this summer.

These events included the BICS Thursday Night Sailing Series, now in its 20th year, which offered island skippers and crews ten weeks of racing sailed each Thursday evening from June 23rd to September 7th. Typical format was three 20 minute races each evening, in the Great Salt Pond, with the participating boats being scored under the Performance Handicap Rating Fleet scoring system. Cameron Greenlee and the Block Island Club get special mention for not only achieving two podium finishes but also providing the Series with the on-the-water Race Committee, staffed by Cameron and the BI Club Sailing Instructors, which was much appreciated by all.

BICS Thursday Night Sailing Series, 18 races sailed, Low Point Scoring, four highest scores thrown out

Pos	Boat	Skipper	Club	Total
1	RUSH (Tripp 26)	Henry duPont	BI Community Sailing	30
2	Island Spirit (J/24)	Bob Closter	None	40
3	BI Club Guest (Colgate 26)	Various Skippers	BI Club	54
4	Ted's Sled (Colgate 26)	Ted Merritt	BI Community Sailing	56
5	Suzie Lightning (Int 10sq m Canoe)	Cameron Greenlee	BI Yacht Club	59

The other regatta BICS ran this summer was the Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta which was held on July 21st. This was an around the buoys regatta sailed in Block Island Sound in brisk Easterly winds. The course was a 4.8 mile windward / leeward Course with the Start / Finish line set north of the New Harbor Entrance Channel. The racing was very close with the entire fleet finishing within 4 minutes of each other. Special mention goes to Bob Closter who sailed his J/24 "Island Spirit" singlehanded in challenging conditions and special thanks to Gary Pollard who provided his classic trawler "Kingfisher" as the Race Committee boat, Arlene Tunney, who served as Start/Finish Race Committee Official, and Race Chairman, Henry duPont who organized and ran the event and also set the course marks in the BICS mark / safety boat.

BICS Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta, Low Point Scoring, Course Length 4.8 miles.

Pos	Boat	Skipper	Club	Time
1	Blue Moon (Freedom 40/40)	Don Coxe	BI Yacht Club	00:37:00
2	BIC #2 (Colgate 26)	John Seider	BI Club	00:38:49
3	Ted's Sled (Colgate 26)	Ted Merritt	BI Community Sailing	00:39:07
4	Island Spirit	Bob Closter	None	00:40:56

The BICS Awards Picnic and introduction to Sailing event participants were welcomed last Sunday by BICS Directors Jake Fiechter and Ray Torrey who ran the Picnic, and Ted Merritt and Don Coxe who took a number of new sailing enthusiasts out for a sail in the BICS Raven 24 sailboats. A grand time was had by all. None of this would be possible without the support of Tony and Ben Edwards who generously offered the Block Island Boat Basin as the host facility for BICS, the Island's first true community benefit Sailing Center.

If you would like to join BICS, or support our mission, to provide accessible and affordable sailing to everyone on Block Island, please visit our web site at www.sailbi.org to learn about our Fall sailing programs, including a "Learn to Sail!" package for a fraction of what it would cost to experience the joy and excitement of sailing anywhere else.