

The St. Augustine EC12 Fleet hosted this year's EC12 National Championship Regatta with Joe Walker, our Class Secretary, acting as Race Director. Forty-eight eager skipper registered for the three-day event, held December 3,4 and 5th. Joe, and his team, divided the entrants into three fleets (A,B, and C) dependent upon the national rankings of the skippers. On Thursday, C Fleet took to the water first, and under the rules of relegation, the first 4 finishers in C moved up to B. The B Fleet then raced as did the A. My goal, as a first time attendee of the Nationals, was to get into B and stay there. I was partially successful.

Thursday started with A rigs with winds from the NW. St. Augustine has a great sailing venue with the launch facilities on the south shore - so you're never looking into the sun. The pond has an inverted Y shape so they can set great course if the wind has any north component to it, as it did for the 3 days of this regatta. By noon on Thursday we had shifted down to B rigs which we carried for the rest of the regatta. The winds were fresh and it made for some great sailing.

Besides the sailing venue, the Hotel hosting our regatta did a super job too. They set aside a large meeting room where we could store our boats, still rigged, overnight. The next morning, you just carried your rig out to the grass and you were ready to sail.

As you can imagine, the competition was tough. The field included: Sean Fidler (current World Champion), Alan Perkins, Dick Hedderick (current Florida State Champ) a boat builder (Dave Ramos), two sailmakers (Danny Thomas, and Jake Leo) and many others deeply involved with the class. I've listed the top five finishers below along with those from TVMYS:

- 1 Sean Fidler
- 2 David Brawner
- 3 Alan Perkins
- 4 Reichard Kahle
- 5 Dave Ramos
- 6 John Luscomb
- 21 John G. (Winner of the "Bubble Boy Trophy")
 - John Santoro
 - Liz Perkins
 - Judy Clarke
 - Don Thompson

All-in-all it was a fabulous regatta and exptremely well managed and scored by Joe and his team. I'm looking forward to returning to St. Augustine in April 23 & 24th for the final regatta of this year's Florida Cup Series. Unfortunately, Don had some health issues during the regatta and had to withdraw. John G.