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Rain Can't Stop the Racing at Quantum Key West 2014

Key West, Florida Keys - Rain squalls and wind shifts couldn't put a damper on the competition during Day 2 at Quantum Key West 2014. Multiple storm bands that were quite severe at times challenged the race committees and forced delays. Ultimately, perseverance and patience paid off as Division 1 completed a race while Divisions 2 and 3 got in two each.

"We were seeing massive wind shifts – pre-squall and post-squall. The breeze went in a circle for a while," said Ken Legler, veteran principal race officer on Division 1. "We had to move the signal boat a couple times and once we got a race going we had to move the weather mark a couple times."

After postponing twice, Legler got a start away at 2:25 in the afternoon and it was a wild ride for the five classes competing on Division 1. Doug DeVos, skipper of *Quantum Racing*, saw 30-plus knots on the wind gauge.

"We saw just about everything out there. On a crazy day like this it's important for everyone to remain calm, which is the way it was on our boat," DeVos said. "You try to keep guessing what will happen, but you don't get too antsy when something different happens. You just have to accept that this is what we have and adjust."

Quantum Racing, with America's Cup veterans Terry Hutchinson and Ed Baird giving DeVos advice on tactics and strategy, scored its third straight victory in the professional-laden 52 Class. DeVos was all smiles to hold a four-point lead over *Ran* (Niklas Zennstrom, Great Britain) following two challenging days off the Conch Republic.

"We feel really good. How can you not? You just want to keep yourself in the regatta when the conditions are difficult. Our team is not only keeping us in it, they have us winning races," DeVos said.

Caol Ila R, the 69-footer skippered by Alex Schaerer of Newport, R.I., took first place in the Mini Maxi class ahead of 72-footers *Bella Mente* and *Shockwave*. It was the second victory in three races for *Caol Ila R*, which can benefit from sailing in clean air while the two bigger boats battle it out.

"In a way it's an advantage for them," admitted Mark Mendelblatt, a member of the *Shockwave* afterguard. "There are times when we can tack on them and push them back, but we also have to be aware of *Bella Mente*."

Decision maintained the lead in High Performance Class for a second straight day after placing second in the day's lone race behind fellow Carkeek 40 *Spookie*. It's a tight class with only three points separating the first and fourth place entries.

"We are very evenly-matched with *Spookie* and it seems like we've been swapping leads with them every leg, which is exciting," said Murray, who also praised the performance of the Farr 400 *Rock & Roll* and the McConaughy 38 *Riot*. "Really, any of these boats could win the regatta. They are all well-sailed and it's been great competition so far."

Vitesse, a Swan 42 skippered by Jon Halbert of Dallas, Texas, has displayed superb consistency in placing second in all three races against a tough fleet in IRC 3. *Catapult*, a Ker 40 owned by Marc Glimcher of New York, has sandwiched a pair of bullets around a seventh and stands second overall with nine points.

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Rain Can't Stop the Racing at Quantum Key West 2014 - *continued*

"We have a great crew and they are sailing the boat very well in trying conditions," Halbert said. "The wind was all over the place today – we saw everything from five to 35 knots with 30 degree shifts. It was important to anticipate the wind oscillations and change sails accordingly."

Catapult's victory in IRC 3 earned the Lewmar/Navtec Boat of the Day award. Veteran professional Geoff Ewenson is calling tactics for Glimcher, who captured an IRC Sub-Class at Quantum Key West 2013.

IRC 3 was the most competitive class on Tuesday with the top five boats finishing within a minute of each other on elapsed time and the top eight boats inside of three minutes on corrected time.

"What a spectacular day of racing. We had a big build-up and were not disappointed," said Glimcher, who finished just 17 seconds ahead of *Vitesse* on corrected time. "Winning Boat of the Day is very exciting for the *Catapult* team."

Boat-handling was at a premium on Division 2 as the J/70 and Melges 24 classes were buffeted by the big breeze. There were plenty of knockdowns and round-ups as the sport boats with oversized spinnakers were pounded with sudden gusts.

Skipper James Allsopp and his team on *Moxie* showed tremendous skill and strategy in winning both races in J/70, largest class of the regatta with 60 boats. Former College of Charleston sailor Zeke Horowitz was on his game calling tactics on *Moxie*, which led after the first day of racing last year as well.

"We went out there with a plan and we stuck with it. Everything just kind of came together for us today," said Allsopp, who competed collegiately at the Naval Academy. "We got off the line well in both races and did a good job of managing the shifts. We had a good time today."

It was equally rough-and-tumble for the Melges 32 fleet with Tuesday race winner Deneen Demourkas reporting that all seven boats suffered a knockdown at some point. Demourkas steered *Groovederci* to victory with Cameron Appleton calling tactics and is two points behind *Hedgehog* (Alec Cutler, Bermuda) in the overall standings.

"I like the heavy air. You'll never hear me complain about it being breezy," said Demourkas, a finalist for the Rolex Yachtswoman of the Year Award for 2013. "This is a strong fleet. Every boat has the potential to win the regatta."

Principal race officer Wayne Bretsch and his team on Division 3 worked overtime to get in two races, staying on the water until after 5 p.m. *Vayu2*, the defending regatta champ skippered by Ron Buzil of Chicago, got the gun in Race 3 after placing second in Race 2 and leads J/80 class by seven points.

There is a nice duel shaping up in PHRF 2 with a pair of J/111 entries – Team *Fireball* (Eddie Fredericks, Annapolis) and *Spaceman Spiff* (Rob and Ryan Ruhlman, Cleveland, Ohio) tied with seven points after three races. Team Fireball holds the overall lead by virtue of two bullets.

Skipper Bill Sweetser and the *Rush* crew extended their lead in PHRF 2 by posting a second and a first on Tuesday. *Rush* is six points ahead of fellow J/109 *Heat Wave* (Gary Weisberg, Gloucester, Mass.).

Bill Wagner
Press Officer

For those who can't be out on the race course, there will be plenty of ways to follow the racing. Last year was a first for "Key West Live" coverage (**#QKeyWest**) and there will be more real time bloggers and video coverage to keep everyone connected this year. <http://premiere-racing.com/QKWLive/>

Regatta dates are January 19 - 24, 2014.

Event Sponsors include Title Sponsor **Quantum Sails** and Day Sponsors **Lewmar/Navtec** (Official Marine Hardware), and **Mount Gay® Rum** (Official Rum). The Supporting Sponsors are **B&G** (Official Marine Electronics), **Marlow Ropes** (Official Rope), and **Gill** (Official Technical Gear). *Continued..*

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Key West Race Week is also supported by The **Florida Keys & Key West Tourism Council**. The **Ocean Key Resort and Spa** is the Official Hotel. **Sapporo USA** is the Official Beer and **Regatta Ginger Beer** is the Official Ginger Beer. **Chelsea Clock** is providing their classic Ship's Bell Clocks for the Boat of the Day trophies.

23 Industry Partners bring their support through a program that is now in its 13th year. Quantum Key West 2014 is a **US SAILING** sanctioned event.

The racing will be conducted under permit in the **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary**. The sanctuary protects 2,900 square nautical miles of critical marine habitat, including coral reef, hard bottom, seagrass meadow, mangrove communities and sand flats.

Event information, past results and photos: www.Premiere-Racing.com

About Quantum Sail Design Group



Founded by a group of independent, experienced sailmakers who shared a common vision, Quantum Sail Design Group is dedicated to overcoming the trend toward mass-marketing and mediocrity in the sailmaking industry. The company is known for its high-performance Fusion M sails and winning sail designs in dozens of classes from dinghies to super yachts.

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Quantum has more than 60 sales and service outlets throughout the world, with world headquarters in Traverse City, MI and European headquarters in Barcelona, Spain.

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TOP THREE IN CLASS

Place, Yacht Name, Type, Owner/Skipper, Hometown, Results, Total Points

High Performance Class (HPR - 4 Boats)

1. Decision, HPR Carkeek 40 40, Stephen Murray , New Orleans, LA, USA - 3, 1, 2, ; 6
2. SPOOKIE, HPR Carkeek 40 40, Steve & Heidi Benjamin , Norwalk, CT, USA - 4, 2, 1, ; 7
3. Rock & Roll, Farr 400 39, Bernard Girod , Santa Barbara, CA, USA - 1, 4, 3, ; 8

Mini Maxi Class (IRC 1) (IRC - 3 Boats)

1. Caol Ila R, Mini Maxi 69, Alex Schaerer , Newport, RI, USA - 1, 2, 1, ; 4
2. Bella Mente, Judel-Vrolijk Mini Maxi 72, Hap Fauth , Minneapolis, MN, USA - 3, 1, 2, ; 6
3. Shockwave, Mini Maxi 72, George Sakellaris , Framingham, MA, USA - 2, 3, 3, ; 8

52 Class (IRC 2) (IRC - 6 Boats)

1. Quantum Racing, TP 52 52, Doug DeVos , Ada, MI, USA - 1, 1, 1, ; 3
2. Rán, TP 52 52, Niklas Zennstrom , Southampton, Hampshire, UK - 2, 2, 3, ; 7
3. AZZURRA, TP 52 52, Pablo A. Roemmers , Olivos, Buenos Aires, ARG - 3, 3, 2, ; 8

IRC 3 (IRC - 10 Boats)

1. Vitesse, Swan 42 42.5, Jon Halbert , Dallas, TX, USA - 2, 2, 2, ; 6
2. Catapult, Ker 40 40, Marc Glimcher , New York, NY, USA - 1, 7, 1, ; 9
3. Arethusa, Swan 42 42, Phil Lotz , Ft Lauderdale, FL, USA - 7, 1, 4, ; 12

52 Class (Super Series) (One Design - 6 Boats)

1. Quantum Racing (SS), TP 52 52, Doug DeVos , Ada, MI, USA - 1, 1, 1, ; 3
2. Rán (SS), TP 52 52, Niklas Zennstrom , Southampton, Hampshire, UK - 2, 2, 3, ; 7
3. AZZURRA (SS), TP 52 52, Pablo A. Roemmers , Olivos, Buenos Aires, ARG - 3, 3, 2, ; 8

Melges 32 (One Design - 7 Boats)

1. Hedgehog, Melges 32 32, Alec Cutler , Pembroke, BER - 1, 1, 4, ; 6
2. Groovederci, Melges 32 32, Deneen Demourkas , Santa Barbara, CA, USA - 3, 4, 1, ; 8
3. Delta, Melges 32 32, Dalton DeVos , Macatawa, MI, USA - 2, 3, 5, ; 10

Melges 24 (One Design - 6 Boats)

1. Little Wing, Melges 24 24 , Nicola Ardito , ITA - 1, 1, ; 2
2. Tramp, Melges 24 24, Thomas Ritter , Bloomfield Hills, MI, USA - 2, 3, ; 5
3. The 300 , Melges 24 24, Steven Boho , Lake Geneva, WI, USA - 6, 2, ; 8

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J 70 (One Design - 60 Boats)

1. Moxie, J 70 22.75, James Allsopp , Annapolis, MD, USA - 1, 1, ; **2**
2. Savasana, J 70 22.75, Brian Keane , Weston, MA, USA - 4, 3, ; **7**
3. Running Wild, J 70 22.75, Peter Vessella , Miami, FL, USA - 3, 4, ; **7**

J 80 (One Design - 12 Boats)

1. Vayu2, J 80 26, Ron Buzil , Chicago, IL, USA - 1, 2, 1, ; **4**
2. Blue Jay, J 80 26, Bob & Cheryl Hayward , Pacific Palisades, CA, USA - 4, 4, 3, ; **11**
3. Rumor, J 80 26, John Storck, Jr , Huntington, NY, USA - 8, 3, 2, ; **13**

PHRF 1 (PHRF_ToT - 8 Boats)

1. Fireball, J 111 36.5, Team Fireball , Annapolis, MD, USA - 1, 5, 1, ; **7**
2. Spaceman Spiff, J 111 36.5, Rob and Ryan Ruhlman , Cleveland, OH, USA - 2, 3, 2, ; **7**
3. Stark Raving Mad IV, J 125 41, James Madden , Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA - 3, 1, 7, ; **11**

PHRF 2 (PHRF_ToT - 7 Boats)

1. Rush, J 109 35, Bill Sweetser , Annapolis, MD, USA - 1, 2, 1, ; **4**
2. Heat Wave, J 109 35, Gary Weisberg , Gloucester, MA, USA - 3, 5, 2, ; **10**
3. Rhumb Punch, Farr 30 30, John and Linda Edwards , California, MD, USA - 2, 3, 5, ; **10**