



## **LeBlanc Awarded C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Trophy For Best Overall Performance**

*Paralympic Class Winners Confirmed As*

*C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Memorial Clinic and Regatta Wraps Ninth Edition*



NEWPORT, R.I. (August 23, 2011) – The C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Trophy for 2011 has been awarded to Marc LeBlanc of New Orleans, Louisiana. The trophy is awarded to the sailor with the best overall performance at the C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Memorial Clinic and Regatta, and was presented to LeBlanc, who races in the 2.4 Metre class, at the conclusion of the ninth running of this annual regatta, considered by many to be the premier event for sailors with disabilities.

On the first day of racing, puffy conditions, with gusts up to 20 knots, saw four races completed by the 2.4 Metre class, which had the largest turnout – 12 boats – of the four fleets competing. After four races, LeBlanc had a net five points and a three-point lead over his closest competitor. On the second day of racing a more consistent breeze in the upper teens allowed LeBlanc to solidify his position as overall class leader when he placed first in all three races while increasing the spread to eight points. And when the series concluded after three days of racing, LeBlanc had finished first in seven out of 10 races to win The Clagett in the 2.4 Metre class.

The 26 year-old LeBlanc, who hopes to represent the U.S.A. in the 2012 Paralympic Games, arrived in Newport, R.I., fresh from a fourth-place finish in the 2.4 Metre class at the IFDS (International Association for Disabled Sailing) World Championship in Weymouth, England, where he was also the top-finishing American in the class. He is ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in

the world in the 2.4 Metre by the International Sailing Federation (ISAF).

**Paralympic Classes Wrap-Up:** There were no surprises, just a great day of sailing, as the ninth annual C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Memorial Regatta, North America's premier event for sailors with disabilities, concluded on August 23 after three days of racing on Narragansett Bay. The standings leaders in the three Paralympic classes – the three-person Sonar, the two-person SKUD-18, and the singlehanded 2.4 Metre – were confirmed as winners once a dying north-westerly breeze gave way to a southerly that allowed three races to be held for the completion of the series.

**Sonar:** In the Sonar class, three teams, each with hopes of representing the U.S.A. at the 2012 Paralympic Games, topped the five-boat class. Paul Callahan (Newport, R.I. /Cape Coral, Fla.), Tom Brown (Castine, Maine) and Brad Johnson (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.), each of whom has been to the Paralympics – although never together as a team – led the Sonar fleet from day one and after 11 races won the championship with 10 points.

“This event [The Clagett] helps us continue the momentum from England, while working on specific areas of our sailing that we want to improve,” said Callahan as he explained that the trio was the top-finishing American team in the Sonar class at the IFDS Worlds in England earlier this summer. “The Clagett fit perfectly into our training program,” he added. Callahan represented the U.S.A. in the Sonar at the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney, and Brown won a bronze medal, in the 2.4 Metre class, at those same games. Johnson also won a bronze medal – earned at the 2004 Paralympics in Athens as crew on a Sonar.

Finishing second were Andrew Fisher (Greenwich, Conn.), 2008 SKUD-18 Paralympic Gold Medalist Maureen McKinnon-Tucker (Marblehead, Mass.) and Christopher Murphy (Charleston, S.C.) with 24 points, followed three points back by Albert Foster (Wayzata, Minn.), Jim Thweatt (Sacramento, Calif.) and David Burdette (Lutherville, Md.). Fourth overall with 37 points were Charlie Croteau (Worcester, Mass.), James Demsey (Salem, Mass.) and Johanne Lalonde (Ottawa, CAN); Richard Ramos (Medford, Mass.), Duncan Gillespie (Charlestown, Mass.), Kitty Mears (Brighton, Mass.) and Steve Jewett (Winthrop, Mass.) were fifth with 49 points.

Croteau who was making his third appearance in The Clagett and deemed it the “best one yet.” While joking that when “Coach Betsy [Alison] tells you to do something, you do it or die,” he explained with sincerity that he felt he had learned more and performed better because of the clinic and coaching. “I’ll be back next year,” added Croteau.

**SKUD-18:** In the SKUD-18 class Scott Whitman (Brick, N.J.) and Brooke Thomson (Newport Beach, Calif.) won the final three races of the series today to win their class with 10 points. Sarah Everhart Skeels (Tiverton, R.I.) and wounded warrior Aqeel Shhaib (Urbana, Ill.) finished in second place with 21 points, followed by Ken Kelly (Victoria, B.C. CAN) and Brenda Hopkin (Fairmont Hot Springs, CAN) with 28 points.

**2.4 Metre:** Mark LeBlanc (New Orleans, La.) led the 12-boat 2.4 Metre fleet from day one of The Clagett and was ultimately able to prevent 2010 Clagett champion Charles Rosenfield (Woodstock, Conn.) from successfully defending his title, in spite of Rosenfield winning two races on the final day of the series. LeBlanc ended the 10-race series with 11 points to Rosenfield's 17. Third overall was able-bodied sailor Peter Wood (Ottawa, CAN) with 27 points, followed by Julia Dorsett (West Chester, Penn.) and Tim Ripley (Randolph, N.J.), with 34 and 48 points, respectively.

“The main thing this year was that the fleet was not as spread out as far as skill level,” said Craig Guthrie (Halifax, Nova Scotia) of the 2.4 Metre sailors. Guthrie, the 2008 Canadian Paralympic Coach, was back at The Clagett to work with the class for his second consecutive year. “We had lead changes at the top end, in the middle and at the back end. And it was fully competitive with 10-11 boats on the line. Everybody got better at their starts. The pure essence of a clinic is to recognize achievement and skill acquisition over a three-to-four day period -- and everybody nailed it. They were getting better at the starts, tactics were getting better, their boat-handling, sail-trim, everything was on a continuous steep learning curve all week. It was great.”

Guthrie went on to explain that the 2.4 is a disabled boat, but is sailed at an integrated level on the world championship level as well as local fleet level “which is what makes it a perfect boat for sailors with disabilities because they can get into an integrated environment which is the ultimate for people with disabilities. People with disabilities are only

disabled when they can't do something.”

**Sail Newport Blind Sailing National Championship Recap:** Since 2008, blind sailors have raced in The Clagett for the Sail Newport Blind Sailing National Championship title. This year seven teams – some from as far away as Texas and California – raced for two days, completing their regatta a day before the sailors in the Paralympic classes. On the first day of the championship, after five races were completed in puffy conditions with gusts up to 20 knots, the Texas team skippered by Karen Penrose (Shore Acres) and James O’Laughlin (Clear Lake) with sighted guides David Atkinson and Scott Tuma (both Shore Acres), moved to the top of the overall standings with a one-point lead over the Massachusetts team of 2009 Blind Sailing World Champions: Jason Wallenstein (N. Billerica) and Bruce Howell (Needham) with world champion sighted guides Lisa O’Connor Dalton (Hull) and Peter Frisch (Swampscott). Standing third was Sengil “Inky” Inkiala (Watertown, Mass.) and Glenn Boivin (Saugus, Mass.) with Nancy Jodoin (Natick, Mass.) and Ken Legler (Reading, Mass.).

Four more races were completed in the J/22s on the second and final day of the series for a total of nine races to determine the 2011 Sail Newport Blind Sailing National Championship. The Texas team not only was competing at The Clagett for the first time but also went home with the championship title after a solid effort that included a win of the final race of the series to take the championship title with 12 points.

They were followed in the standings by three Massachusetts teams, all of whom participate in the SailBlind program organized by The Carroll Center for the Blind (Newton) and run out of the Courageous Sailing Center in Boston: Jason Wallenstein and Bruce Howell with Lisa O’Connor Dalton and Peter Frisch, won four of the nine races to take second overall with 16 points; Duane Farrar (Watertown) and Deb Keating (Woburn), with Sol Marini (Littleton) and Bob Costello (Medfield), were third overall with 21 points; followed by Sengil Inkiala and Glenn Boivin with Nancy Jodoin and Ken Legler, with 31 points.

Fifth overall with 40 points was Walter Raineri (Santa Clara, Calif.) and Jim Stevens (San Leandro, Calif.) , with Jim Boyd (Concord, Calif.), Chuck Anastasia (Barrington, R.I.) and Matt Dunbar. Another SailBlind team from Massachusetts, Matt Chao (Newton) and Nina Kagan (West Roxbury), with Bill Rapp (Rockport) and Mary McKinnon (South Boston), was sixth with 42 points followed by the California team of Mitsuhiro Iwamoto (San Diego) and Philip Kum (San Francisco), with sighted guides Danette Davis (Berkeley) and Al Spector (Sausalito) – with 46 points.

For more information, become a “Facebook Friend” of The C. Thomas Clagett, Jr. Memorial Regatta at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/C-Thomas-Clagett-Jr-Memorial-Regatta/128829627144323> or visit the event website at [www.clagettregatta.org/](http://www.clagettregatta.org/) where full results, photos and additional information can be found.

**About the C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Memorial Clinic & Regatta:** The ninth annual edition, August 20-23, 2011, is based from Sail Newport, Rhode Island’s community sailing center. Widely respected as North America’s premier event for sailors with disabilities, it began as an event for a single class of boat with a stated mission of assisting sailors in realizing their potential on the water by providing them – through the one-day clinic that precedes racing – both the knowledge and tools to improve their skills, and the opportunity to test them in competition. While the mission has stayed the same, the event has expanded to include all three boats that have been chosen as the equipment of the Paralympic Regatta: the three-person Sonar, the two-person SKUD-18 and the singlehanded 2.4 Metre. Since 2008 blind sailors have also been included as they race J/22s with sighted guides for the Sail Newport Blind National Sailing Championship.

The C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Memorial Clinic and Regatta honors the late Tom Clagett (1916-2001), a U.S. Navy World War II veteran who learned to sail on the Chesapeake Bay. As a youngster he suffered temporary paralysis as the result of a bout of meningitis; it was an experience that left him with a deep respect for the accomplishments of people with disabilities, especially athletes.

Sponsors of the C. Thomas Clagett Memorial Clinic & Regatta are: Fiduciary Trust International, the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, Chartis, Innovative Construction and Roger King Fine Art.

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(full results follow)

**FINAL RESULTS: C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Memorial Regatta 2011**

**Division: 2.4mR (12 boats) ([top](#))**

Pos	Sail	Skipper	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">8</a>	<a href="#">9</a>	<a href="#">10</a>	Total Points
1	USA 137	Mark LeBlanc	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	[7]	11.00
2	USA 142	Charles Rosenfield	1	2	2	[3]	3	3	2	1	2	1	17.00
3	CAN 14	Peter Wood	3	3	3	2	[4]	2	4	4	3	3	27.00
4	USA 172	Julia Dorsett	4	4	4	4	2	6	3	3	[7]	4	34.00
5	USA 118	Tim Ripley	[8]	5	6	5	7	4	5	6	5	5	48.00
6	CAN 88	Aaron Wong-Sing	6	6	5	[13/DNS]	8	8	6	5	4	9	57.00
7	USA 37	Brian Skeels	7	7	9	7	6	5	7	8	6	[10]	62.00
8	CAN 12	Christine Lavallee	5	8	8	9	5	[13/DNF]	8	10	9	6	68.00
9	USA 39	Nick Bryan-Brown	10	10	10	6	9	10	[11]	7	8	11	81.00
10	CAN 18	Audrey Kobayashi	9	9	7	10	[11]	9	10	9	11	8	82.00
11	USA 121	Joseph Hill	[13/DNF]	13/DNS	13/DNS	8	10	7	9	11	10	2	83.00
12	USA 128	Donna DeMarest	11	11	[13/DNS]	13/DNS	13/DNS	13/DNS	13/DNS	13/DNS	13/DNS	13/DNS	113.00

**Division: Skud 18 (3 boats)**

Pos	Sail	Skipper	Crew	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">8</a>	<a href="#">9</a>	<a href="#">10</a>	<a href="#">11</a>	Total Points
1	USA 0	Scott Whitman	Brooke Thomson	1	1	1	1	[4/DNF]	1	1	1	1	1	1	10.00
2	USA 22	Sarah Everhart Skeels	Aqeel Shhaib	2	2	2	2	2	[3]	3	2	2	2	2	21.00
3	USA 3	Ken Kelly	Brenda Hopkin	3	3	[4/DNF]	4/DNS	1	2	2	3	3	3	4/DNF	28.00

**Division: Sonar (5 boats)**

Pos	Sail	Skipper	Crew	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">8</a>	<a href="#">9</a>	<a href="#">10</a>	<a href="#">11</a>	Total Points
1	450	Paul Callahan	Tom Brown/Bradley Johnson	1	1	[2]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10.00
2	810	Andrew Fisher	Christopher Murphy/Maureen McKinnon-Tucker	3	3	1	3	3	[6/DNF]	2	2	3	2	2	24.00
3	757	Albert Foster	Jim Thweatt/David Burdette	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	6/DNF	[6/DNS]	27.00
4	493	Charlie Crouteau	Johanne Lalonde/James Demsey	[4]	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	37.00
5	513	Richard Ramos	Duncan Gillespie/Steve Jewett/Kitty Mears	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	[6/DNS]	5	4	6/DNF	49.00

**Division: J22(7 boats) for the Sail Newport Blind National Sailing Championship (concluded 8/22/11)**

Pos	Skipper/Crew	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	Total Points
1	Karen Penrose/James O'Laughlin/David Atkinson/Scott Tuma	2	2	2	2	1	[3]	1	3	1	14.00
2	Jason Wallenstein/Bruce Howell/Lisa Dalton/Peter Frisch	1	3	1	1	4	1	3	2	[6]	16.00
3	Duane Farrar/Deb Keating/Sol Marini/Bob Costello	3	[5]	4	4	2	2	2	1	3	21.00
4	Sengil Inkiala/Glenn Boivin/Nancy Jodoin/Ken Legler	4	1	3	3	3	[7]	7	6	4	31.00
5	Walter Raineri/Jim Stevens/Jim Boyd/Chuck Anastasia/Matt Dunbar	6	6	[7]	6	6	4	6	4	2	40.00
6	Matt Chao/Nina Kagan/Bill Rapp/Mary McKinnon	5	[7]	6	5	7	5	4	5	5	42.00
7	Mitsuhiro Iwamoto/Phillip Kum/Al Spector/Danette Davis	7	4	5	7	5	6	5	[8/OCS]	7	46.00