

## **Race January 26, 2025**

*by Martin Herbert, aboard the Kay D*

No wind greeted the sailors who turned up for this event and so boats had to choose an arbitrary direction as regards head to wind, and sails were being hoisted all over the place. During the pre-race milling about, crews were practising their light weather techniques and Steller J took the prize for most organized. Note her excellent angle of heel below:



Also well-heeled was the new Faget Rocket Ono, a Melges 20, looking very sporty:



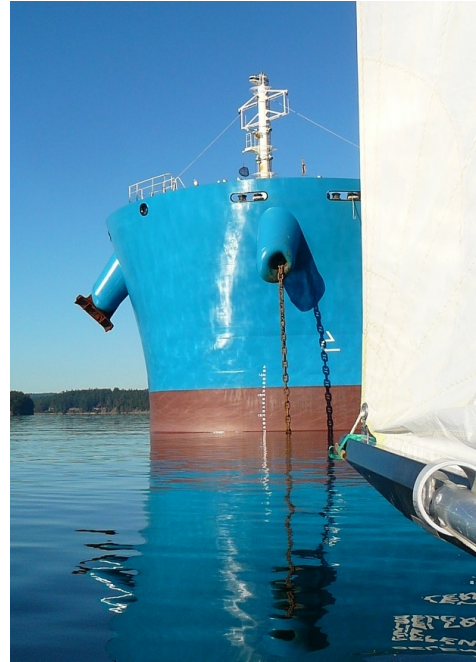
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The start caught your reporter completely by surprise, on port tack heading upwind from the wrong side of the line. There seems to be no excuse for this kind of behaviour and it was rewarded with the Kay D moving straight into last place, heading away from the only line of wind to appear on the water all day. This gust lasted for a good while and moved the fleet down the harbour, now favouring one side of the harbour, then the other, with lots of lead changes. Once out of the harbour, all ripples on the water vanished and it became all about who had the best wind indicator or the most sensitive cheeks. Sorcery X tacked over and played the left side of the course. She looked good, then golden, then hopeless, then good again.

On the Saltspring side there was a raging battle with the very different boats Pturbodactyl, Ono and Kay D stealing the lead from each other. Somehow the Kay D got around the bow of the freighter first (*photo to the right*).

*Below:* Creeping along at .8 knots. Note the visuals on the wind strength. Shortly thereafter, Ono re-passed the Kay D.



Note the visuals on the view to weather (...nice heel angle, though).

Shortly after this they turned on the motor and offered me a tow home. Not yet, I thought.

Greg and Sorcery X looked golden again and so did the pickle fork, although the lifting wind was not helping them out. I still had delusions of getting to Batt Rock first. But when they turned and started heading for home as well, I hitched a ride.



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That left one boat still in the race—Russ and Saorsa were still heading to Batt Rock. They later emailed the Fleet Captain Racing to say they did finish the race eventually.



It was, after all, a lovely day to be on the water.