

Day 1 Viper 640 North Americans: Surprise Breeze Welcomes Competitors



MARBLEHEAD, Mass. (September 6): After months of waiting, the guns went off, and the competitors as always were overanxious. Despite a couple of general recalls, Day 1 of the Viper 640 North Americans had two races -- two more than many thought were possible given the forecast. Pieter Taselaar and Glyn Locke both had a first and a second to end Day 1 tied.



The day's forecast called for light air and as competitors launched boats into a glassed over Marblehead Harbor, there was concern that Thursday might be a bust. A light southwester began to fill after the competitors meeting, and after a short on-water postponement, the race committee cranked out two races into a breeze that tapped out at 14 knots.

(right: Tight action at the weather mark. Photo by Leighton O'Connor)

"Everyone pulled together to get the entire fleet launched in time and I'm glad the breeze filled to have a great afternoon of racing," said Class President Dawn Kozak.

Racing was tight all day in the 44-boat fleet, the largest in the class's history, breaking the record set five months ago in Charleston. Thursday night, the fleet gathered at the famous Maddie's Sail Loft for dinner and drinks and recapping the day. Friday's forecast calls for moderate breeze from the west, though if seabreeze conditions fill, sailors could enjoy more champagne sailing.

(right: Finishes were just as close as mark roundings. Photo by Leighton O'Connor)



Top ten (full results posted at <http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=640>)

1. *Bliksem*, Pieter Taselaar (Scarsdale, NY): 2, 1 = 3 pts
2. *Fer de Lance*, Glyn Locke (Isle of Wight, UK): 1, 2 = 3 pts
3. *Mambo Kings*, Justin Scott (Greenwich, CT): 3, 5 = 8 pts
4. *Jackpot*, Brad Boston (Sarnia, ONT): 6, 3 = 9 pts
5. *Velocity*, Graeme Monkhouse (Perth, AUS): 10, 4 = 14 pts
6. *Pink Storm*, Barry Parkin (Riverside, CT): 4, 15 = 19 pts
7. *Smokin*, Somers Kempe (Hamilton, BER): 13, 7 = 20 pts
8. *Don't Forget Alice*, Rod Beurteaux (East Fremantle, AUS): 8, 12 = 20 pts
9. *Wild Hogs*, Peter Bauer (Mamaroneck, NY): 15, 8 = 23 pts
10. *3 Grins*, Dave Nickerson/Moise Solomon (Mystic, CT): 14, 10 = 24 pts

The Viper 640 North American Championship will be held September 6-9, 2012 at Eastern Yacht Club in Marblehead, Mass. For more information about the event, please visit the event website at 2012na.viper640.org. The Viper 640 is a 21-foot sportboat known for its speed and simplicity. For more information about the boat, please visit the class website at www.viper640.org

The 2012 Viper North Americans is presented by EFG Bank, with additional support from Bacardi, Rondar Raceboats, Atlantis Weathergear, Ullman Sails, Doyle Sails, Evolution Sails, North Sails and Mauri Pro Sailing.

