

Amethyst Weekend

August 24-25, 2019

Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

Perfect weather greeted us for this year's Amethyst Weekend, starting with Friday's 20 miles sail from Thunder Bay city to Amethyst Harbour, near the end of Thunder Bay, on Lake Superior. A close reach eased into a broad reach with spinnakers, for a respectable 4 hour sail. This was a race for many years but a few big weather scares suggested we enjoy it instead as a cruise and cruise we did. Being a cruise, as we left, Brian Cox led us to the scene of a large power boat that had run up on the city breakwall the night before. Judging by what was left of the boat, it was a very unpleasant surprise for all aboard.

Saturday dawned calm but by the noon start a beautiful south breeze was finding its way through the South Bay entrance islands to our start off the Main Dock. Our course led out through these islands, inside Palette Island, around Buck Island and Temple Reef, then back in to South Bay, Amethyst Harbour for the finish. About 8 miles if you could reach all around the course. Will Evans with crew Scotia Evans and Mitchell Sandberg was able to avoid the island wind shadows, shifts, holes and Buck Island rocks to finish first. Well done. At Temple Reef, the namesake of our club, it was calm enough for all to see the reef looming up as we ghosted by. 150 feet deep to 3 feet deep, straight up and very impressive.

The second race Saturday over the same course followed with Alex Cox sliding out to the lead, never to be caught. However, with a second and a third, Ross Bailey, Nancy Bailey and Cam McLean held a slim lead to win the Temple Reef Trophy.

The evening continued beautiful with a bar-b-que and corn roast at Cedar Lodge, Porter Bailey's cottage, a log cabin on an idyllic point of land facing Caribou Island. The bonfire burned late, allowing all to rehash the day and enjoy each other's successes. Next morning, Julia Bailey looked after breakfast for about 30 at her parent's, Ross and Nancy's home. Thanks Julia for a great tasting, substantial start to the day.

The Sunday race around Caribou Island started at noon with a little more wind, again from the south. As the crow flies, 9 miles. Upwind, out past the tip of Lambert Island had everyone trading tacks with Terry Cano, Richard and Tina Walsh sliding around the point first. Ross Bailey held a little lower over to Caribou, then down the backside of Caribou, and Terry slowly opened up a comfortable lead. Cut the far tip too close and stop in the wind shadow, or round wide and burn distance. Not easy and not easy coming back, tacking in under the cliffs for downdrafts or staying wide and clear. Bailey had pulled within a few lengths of Cano with Brian Cox, Phil and Mindy Henry right on his tail. Alex Cox with Shawn Boyle and Travis Halls were well back and decided to go for broke. Close to the cliffs never works, but it did this year. While Cano and Bailey almost visited Cedar Lodge, Alex short tacked up the island and just kept gaining. Bailey was able to get past Cano barely holding him off to the finish, but Alex Cox beat them both and won the Crystal Trophy. The courses are unique for Lightning races, but this trophy is quite unique, being the brass speaking tube from a German submarine base surrendered after World War 1. Its long history makes it the oldest local sailing trophy and definitely one of the oldest in Canada. Certainly a real thrill to have your name engraved under a long list of excellent sailors.

Hot dogs greeted the fleet after the finish of the Crystal Trophy race and then the prize giving. The Van Bailey Memorial Trophy went to Ross Bailey with crew Nancy Bailey and Cam McLean. No first places but no bad races either. New this year was a rededicated trophy for the keelboats who raced using PHRF. Cam McWhirter in his lovely C&C 115 and his

enthusiastic crew won the Wind Sense Trophy which for some years had gone to the most improved Optimist sailor in Amethyst Harbour. Cam had never won it as a kid, so now he has closed the loop. Congratulations Cam.

Thanks very much to Race Committees Gary McWhirter on Saturday, Gord Bailey on Sunday and all your assistants. It's wonderful to have your help and we certainly can't do it without you. See you all next year.

2019 AMETHYST WEEKEND RESULTS:

TEMPLE REEF TROPHY (PORTSMOUTH HANDICAP)

<u>BOAT</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>RACE 1</u> <u>POINTS</u>	<u>RACE 2</u> <u>POINTS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>POINTS</u>	<u>FINISH</u> <u>POSITION</u>
R. BAILEY	LIGHTNING	2	3	5	1
A. COX	LIGHTNING	6	0.75	6.75	2
W. EVANS	LIGHTNING	0.75	6	6.75	3
T. CANO	LIGHTNING	5	2	7	4
B. COX	LIGHTNING	4	4	8	5
T. HALLS/N. STOGER	LIGHTNING	7	5	12	6
P.MARTEL	LASER	3	13	16	7
C. McWHIRTER	C&C 115	11	7	18	8
C. BAILEY	C & C 32	10	8	18	9
L. WALSH	LIGHTNING	8	13	21	10
S. MARLER	LASER	9	13	22	11
C. HACHE	T30	13	13	26	12

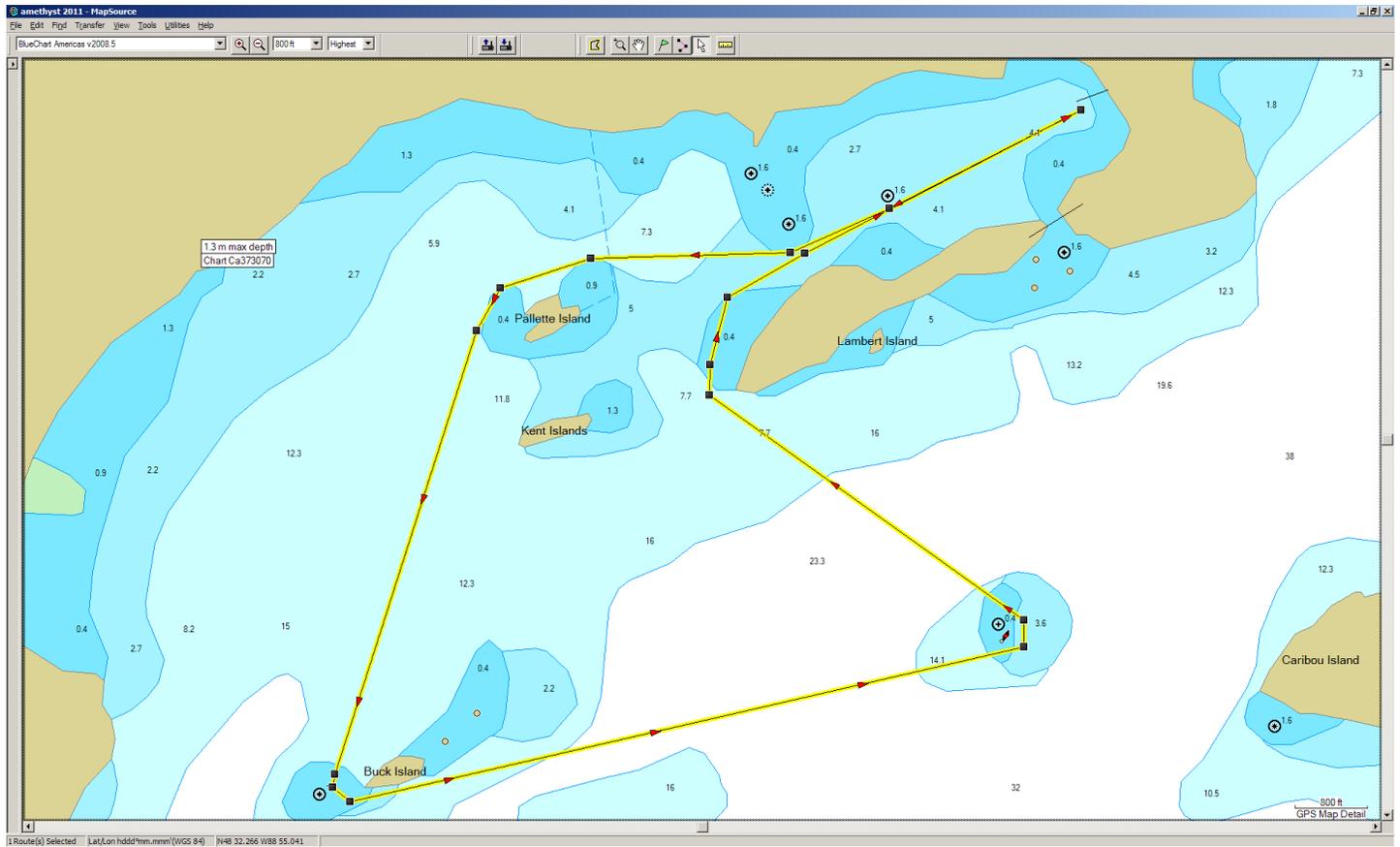
CRYSTAL TROPHY (PORTSMOUTH HANDICAP)

<u>BOAT</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>RACE 1</u> <u>POINTS</u>	<u>FINISH</u> <u>POSITION</u>
A. COX	LIGHTNING	0.75	1
R. BAILEY	LIGHTNING	2	2
T. CANO	LIGHTNING	3	3
B. COX	LIGHTNING	4	4
L. WALSH	LIGHTNING	5	5
C. McWHIRTER	C&C 115	6	6
W. EVANS	LIGHTNING	7	7
T. HALLS/N. STOGER	LIGHTNING	8	8
C. BAILEY	C & C 32	9	9
C. HACHE	T30	10	10
P.MARTEL	LASER	13	12
S. MARLER	LASER	13	12

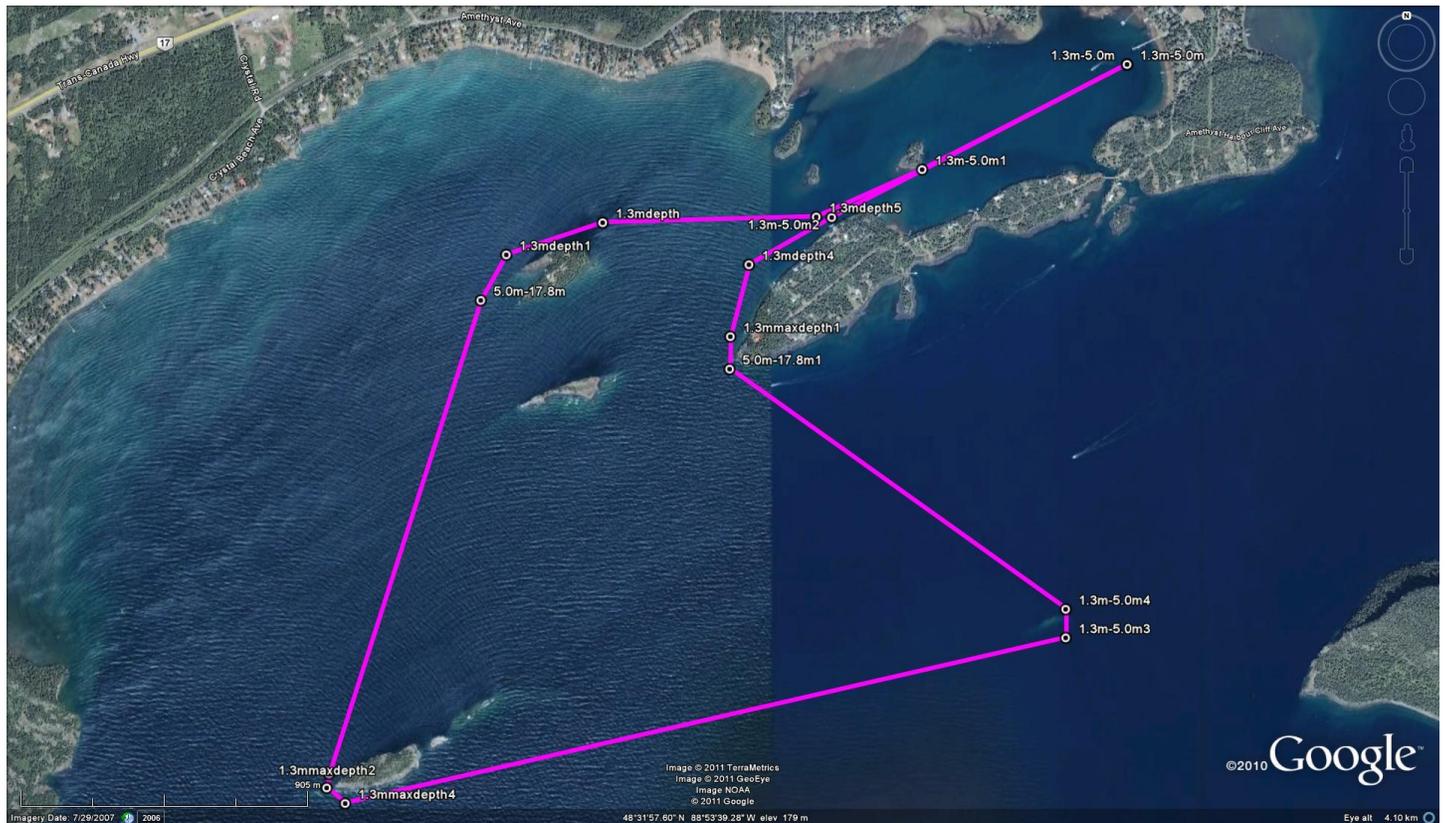
VAN BAILEY MEMORIAL (PORTSMOUTH HANDICAP)

<u>BOAT</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>RACE 1</u> <u>POINTS</u>	<u>RACE 2</u> <u>POINTS</u>	<u>RACE 3</u> <u>POINTS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>POINTS</u>	<u>FINISH</u> <u>POSITION</u>
R. BAILEY	LIGHTNING	2	3	2	7	1
A. COX	LIGHTNING	6	0.75	0.75	7.5	2
T. CANO	LIGHTNING	5	2	3	10	3
B. COX	LIGHTNING	4	4	4	12	4
W. EVANS	LIGHTNING	0.75	6	7	13.75	5
T. HALLS/N. STOGER	LIGHTNING	7	5	8	20	6
C. McWHIRTER	C&C 115	11	7	6	24	7
L. WALSH	LIGHTNING	8	13	5	26	8
C. BAILEY	C & C 32	10	8	9	27	9
P.MARTEL	LASER	3	13	13	29	10
S. MARLER	LASER	9	13	13	35	11
C. HACHE	T30	13	13	10	36	12

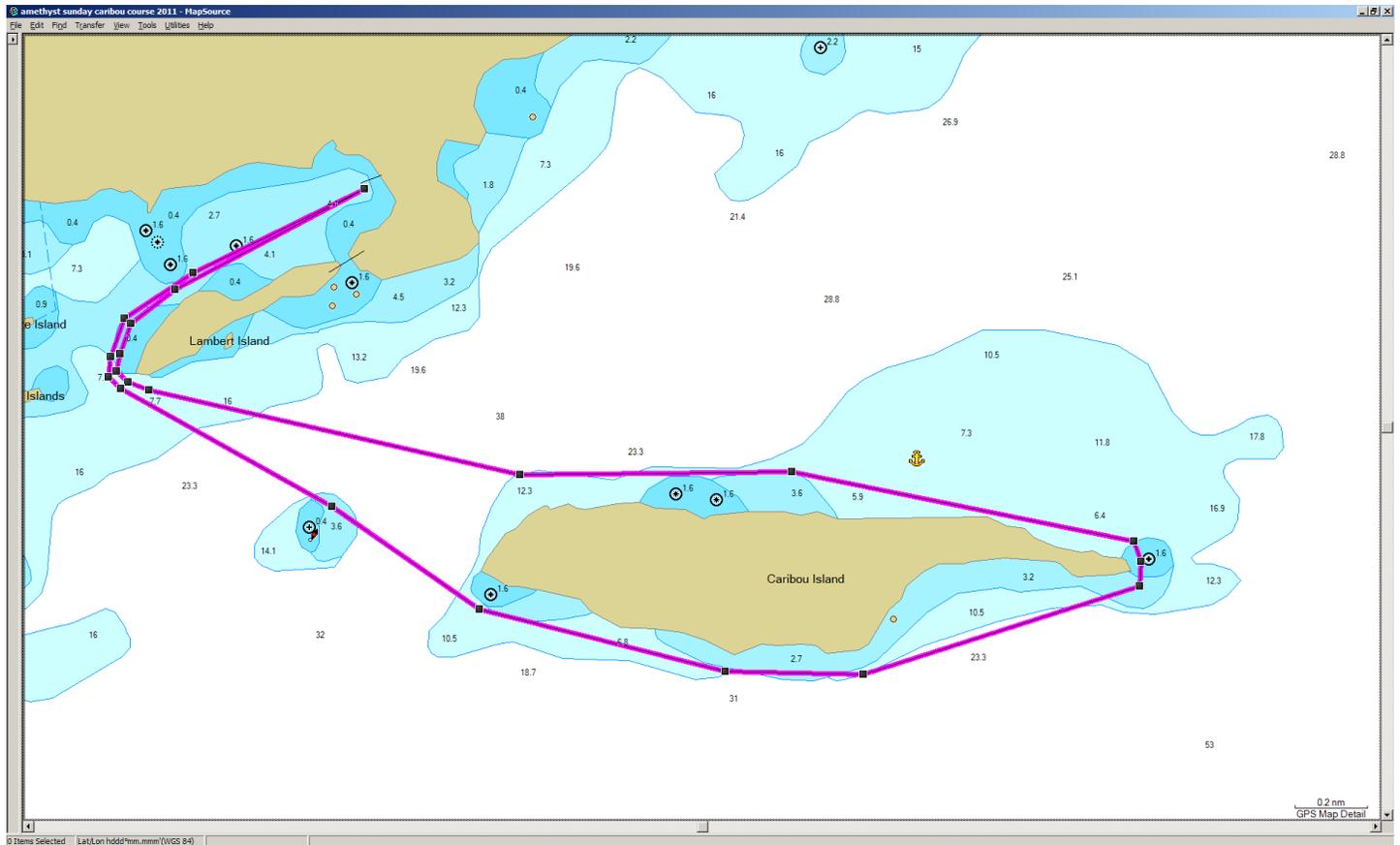
Amethyst Weekend Saturday Course



Amethyst Weekend Saturday Course Shown in Google Earth



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