

Atlantic District J/24 Report

Thursday, October 24, 2002

The local fleet has recovered slightly from the downturn over the past 2 – 3 years. Outward migration of J/24 sailors to the J/29 fleet has slowed dramatically and we currently sail local regattas with 7 or 8 boats. Racing is very good and discrepancies between first and last place are much less than in past years. A couple of boats that haven't participated in the past have changed hands and the new owners are much more inclined to race so I believe we may see fleets of 10 to 12 possible in the next year or so. There are two boats in New Brunswick (Shediac area) and another expected before next year. We have hosted some of their team members at local events.

Our sailing season commenced in April when we sent a group made up of largely J/24 sailors to the Jackson Cup, a team-racing event in Boston. Bermuda Race week followed a few weeks later with a third place finish and then our local season kicked in with the opening regatta at the RNSYS. We ran a small racing clinic in early July and brought a couple of new boat owners up to speed. We sent two teams to the World's in Kingston with Don Williams finishing reasonably well while the other boat just took up space ☺.

We ran a number of match racing events for our fleet and that has spurred new interest in the J/24 from other fleet sailors. Our four regatta series has wound up for the year with Sean McDermott and team in first and Don Williams and team in second. We have just finished our last race of the season this past weekend, the Past Commodore's Race and all boats will likely be put away by time this is read.

So in summation, I feel that the J/24 fleet is not going to fall off the map here or it would have done so already. We look forward to a slow but steady recovery over the next few years with some new faces to sail against.

Respectfully Submitted, Sean McDermott

District Governor – Atlantic Canada J/24 Association