



Rounding The Mark In The '47 Nationals

The 1947 National Championship Regatta

Against a striking backdrop of late-model battleships and the busy commerce of Hampton Roads, the 1947 Penquin National Championships were sailed on August 15 and 16. Runyon Colie, representing the Downer Penguin Fleet, left no doubt in the minds of his competitors that the way to win races is to get out front and stay there. Hailing from windy Barnegat Bay, Colie captured four first places and one second in the breezy conditions which prevailed. Dr. Walter Lawson, title holder since 1941, won the only race that Colie didn't, but was unable to do better than seventh in the final standing.

Joseph Krafft, the Potomac Penguin Fleet's best heavy-weather sailor, took second place in the series with two seconds, a third, a fourth, and a sixth. San Diego's crack team of Bert and Faith Israel captured third place honors, as well as the First Challenge Trophy, by consistent sailing. The West Coast entry never placed better than fourth in any of the five races but by superb sailing on the last leg of the last race the Israels came from behind to garner the single gold chevron award for 1947.

With the Committee Boat on the windward leg and near the leeward mark, the course consisted of a long beat to windward, a

Summary 1947 Penguin National Championship

No.	Name of Boat	Fleet	Skipper	Crew	1st Race	2nd Race	3rd Race	4th Race	5th Race	Total Pts.
1377	Outsider	Downer	Runyon Colie	Janet Reckord	1	1	2	1	1	52.1
900	Pluto	Potomac	Joseph M. Krafft	Alice Slavin	2	3†	6	3	2	39.3
571	Chilly	San Diego	R. D. Israel	Faith Israel	5	6	4	4	4	32.0
1400	Scanty	Baltimore	John R. Reckord	Raymond C. Reckord	7	7	3	5	3	30.2
20	Murgaes	West River	Charles Runyon	Ralph A. Youngs	3	5	5	7	7	28.1
719	Tudy	Hampton	John L. Stevens, Jr.	Robert S. Taylor	6†	3‡	8	2	5	25.9
617	Pink Lady	Potomac	Walter E. Lawson	Dorothy Lawson	8	8	1	6	8	24.7
14	Cats' Paw	Hampton	Charles M. Cox	Nina Cox	4†	2	7	10	6	19.3
96	Gadget	Potomac	Leonard E. Penso	Dorothy Penso	10	9	9	9	9	9.0
727	Little Bird	Hampton	Charles V. Boykin	Gene Monroe	9	10	10	8	10	8.0

†Penalty

‡Dead heat—decided by toss of coin and won by Stevens

DAILY FIRSTS: Outsider (4), Pink Lady (1)

DAILY SECONDS: Pluto (2), Outsider (1), Tudy (1), Cat's Paw (1)

DAILY THIRDS: Scanty (2), Pluto (1), Murgaes (1), Tudy (1)



broad reach on the starboard tack to the second mark, a breathtaking jibe, and a port tack reach to the leeward mark, ending with a short beat to the finish line. This course was used in the first, third, and fourth race; the second and fifth races were sailed on the windward-leeward legs only. The wind held strong and steady for the two days' sailing, providing plenty of action for contestants and spectators, but no dunkings.

In the first race, the fleet crossed the line on the starboard tack, except for the Californians, who made a beautiful port-tack start, clearing most of the right-of-way boys. John L. Stevens, Jr., of Hampton appeared to have the advantage at the start. Shortly after the start, the majority were on a long port-tack leg standing along inshore. Approaching the first mark, it was apparently Charles Cox of Hampton, Krafft, and Colie in that order. In the meantime, John R. Reckord of the Baltimore Fleet was boiling up on the starboard tack, and Cox, tacking too late to avoid hitting Reckord, tried to hide his face under the keel of his boat, or in any case indulged in some aquatic gymnastics. At the first mark, the order was Colie, Krafft, and Charles Runyon of the West River Fleet. There was no change in the order at the second mark in the first three places, but Stevens was working up to Israel, who was fourth. The short beat to the finish showed Colie, Krafft, and Runyon still ahead in that order, with Cox, who had recovered some of his composure, coming in fourth, only to lose the points in a Class 3 violation handed down by the Race Committee. Jack Stevens also was meted out a Class 3 violation, having fouled Israel in the windward work. President Len Penso, apparently deep in matters of state, finished a serious tenth (last).

An hour after the start of the first race, the Committee fired the two guns to call attention to the start of Race No. 2 on a windward-leeward course. After a close start, the fleet scattered for their windward work. It appeared that Cox, Reckord, and Krafft were ahead of Colie, but by the time they reached the first mark, old man Colie was in his accustomed position, followed by Cox and Runyon. As the contestants passed the Committee boat on their way to leeward they were Colie, Cox, Runyon, Krafft, and Stevens. Krafft and Stevens managed to catch Runyon on the beat to windward and, tied for third, with Colie and Cox first and second.

The third race of the series proved to be the most interesting, at least from the spectator point of view. The course was triangular, as

in the first race, with a long beat to the first mark. Colie rounded first, with Krafft close astern, followed by Runyon, Stevens, and the rest of the fleet. Stevens and Lawson managed to catch Runyon on the run, other positions remaining more or less the same. On the wind-abeam leg to the third mark, Krafft and Colie had a private luffing match which carried them considerably to windward of the rest of the fleet. By the time they had jibed to reach for the mark, Lawson had slipped by and rounded the mark. The windward leg to the finish saw the inevitable dog fights with Lawson matching Colie, tack for tack and covering him enough to beat the Mantoloking entry across the finish line by two seconds, this despite a sprained mast which hindered the former champion throughout the series. Jack Reckord beat out the Israels by a scant two seconds, followed by Runyon, Krafft, Cox, and Stevens, all eight within 26 seconds. In the meantime, Charlie Boykin, one of the local Hampton contestants, had broken his mast at the partners, while crabbing along inshore on the first leg. His crew, a lad of some 16 years, transformed himself into a human bowsprit, and they circumnavigated the course by main force and awkwardness in record time (the longest on record). As they crossed the finish line with a rig looking like a Chesapeake Bay skipjack, 50 minutes after the previous boat, they received the plaudits of the spectator fleet and two special guns from the Race Committee.

The following day the weather was much the same, with a stiff southerly blowing. The fourth race, a windward-leeward contest, found the fleet starting on the starboard tack, with Colie, Krafft, and Lawson leading. At the first mark, it was Colie again, followed





"Pink Lady" (The Lawsons) Leading a Group
In The '47 Nationals

by Stevens. They held that lead all around the course, followed by Krafft and Israel, finishing in that order.

It was now evident that the real contest of the National Championships lay between Boykin and Penso, who were tied on points for last place. Who will win the rocking chair?

The concluding race, held on Saturday afternoon, was windward-leeward, two laps. The fleet as usual started on the starboard tack, except for Penso and Boykin, who were sailing close on the port tack, with Penso covering. Colie rounded the first mark in the lead, and the order to leeward past the Committee Boat was Colie, Krafft, Stevens, and Runyon. Between the Committee Boat and the second marks, Reckord overhauled Runyon, who was also being gained on by Israel. However, at the end of the first lap, Runyon had pulled back up into fourth place, followed by Cox, Reckord and Israel. The second leeward leg found Reckord in third place with Stevens, Runyon, Cox, and Israel close behind. In a thrilling beat to the finish, the Israels turned on the heat, coming in fourth behind Colie, Krafft, and Reckord. In the "Little Series", Penso squeaked in ahead of Boykin to secure ninth place by a one-point margin, leaving the latter full rights to a large rocking chair and jug which were formally presented at the trophy dinner following the races.

The final standings were:

<i>Boat No.</i>	<i>Skipper</i>	<i>Fleet</i>	<i>Points</i>
1377	R. Colie, Jr.	Downer	52.1
900	J. M. Krafft	Potomac	39.3
571	R. D. Israel	San Diego	32.0
1400	J. R. Reckord	Baltimore	30.2
20	C. Runyon	West River	28.1
719	J. Stevens, Jr.	Hampton	25.9
617	W. E. Lawson	Potomac	24.7
14	C. M. Cox	Hampton	19.3
96	L. E. Penso	Potomac	9.0
727	C. V. Boykin	Hampton	8.0

Crew prizes went to Janet Reckord, Contestant Reckord's wife, who was recruited at the last minute by Runyon Colie, and Alice Slavin and Faith Israel.

The ever-hospitable Hampton Yacht Club put on a wonderful social program, including the annual meeting on Friday night and a trophy banquet followed by a dance on Saturday night.



R. Colie, R. D. Israel and J. Stevens In The '47 Nationals