

**J/105 ONE-DESIGN CLASS AT  
STINGRAY POINT REGATTA  
By Rich Payne**

Bolstered by the arrival of a new J/105 at Hampton Yacht Club, Fleet 15 obtained enough critical mass to field a J/105 one-design start at Fishing Bay Yacht Club's "Stingray Point Regatta" Labor Day weekend. The entire regatta was in danger of not coming off, as Tropical Storm "Ernesto" tore through eastern Virginia the day before, toppling trees and power lines, and forcing the Hampton Yacht Club boats to postpone their 40 mile trip up the Chesapeake Bay until Saturday morning. As Fishing Bay Yacht Club members worked feverishly to clean up the storm damage, "Flying Colors" (Hull 650, Richard Payne) and two other Hampton Yacht Club boats left Hampton Roads harbor at 6 A.M. Saturday for a wild run up the bay which began with the running lights on and foul weather gear the order of the day. Riding the flood tide and surfing on four-foot waves, the Hampton boats used the 20-knot southwesterly winds to make the trip in five hours, and after going ashore to get the Sailing Instructions, their skippers and crews went right back out to race.

By the time of the postponed first signal at two o'clock, the winds were down to 10-12 knots, and the Fishing Bay Yacht Club Race Committee managed to bring off two races Saturday. The three races Sunday were sailed in similar conditions, with brilliant sunshine after the storm. The five-boat J/105 class included "Corryvreckan" (Hull 198, David Clark), "Blade Runner" (Hull 498, Brad Davis), "Shamrock" (Hull 169, Bob Rock), and "Loose

Cannon" (Hull 517, Strother Scott), in addition to "Flying Colors."

There is no doubt that the J/105 one-design class was the highlight of the regatta. Brad Davis collected five bullets in "Blade Runner" and was awarded the prestigious Brent Halsey trophy as the outstanding boat of the regatta. In the hotly-contested middle of the fleet (three boats separated by two points), David Clark won second, and Strother Scott won third. Rich Payne won the overall sportsmanship award for the regatta, for organizing the one-design start (with very considerable help from David Clark), and for defying the best efforts of "Ernesto" to keep him away.



***Brad Davis with the Brent Halsey, Jr. Award, given to the outstanding boat at the Stingray Point Regatta***