

DAYSAILERS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS ON CAPE COD DURING NORTH AMERICA CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA

Fifty Years ago Alan McClennen brought an O'Day Day Sailer to Stage Harbor Yacht Club in Chatham, Massachusetts. He soon convinced his fellow sailors and a fleet of twelve boats were soon racing out of Stage Harbor. Alan McClennen returned and sailed in 2009 North America Championship on July 24- 26 with many of his grandchildren crewing for him. During the regatta cookout held at the regatta organizer, Rich Batchelder's house, the 38 skippers with their crews from a had a great history lesson given by Alan Mclennan and Bill Morse, together with a display of almost all of the publications since the Day Sailer Association was founded, including the first newsletter.

The Day Sailer is not only for "Old Salts" for there are some great young Cape Cod Sailors as shown by Sarah Fuller winning the five race Junior North Americans, and then crewed with her mother and aunt to take second place in the NACR. The winning boat, L'Amite, skippered by Ted Dickson and crewed by Jonathan Foot, also hailed from Chatham Yacht Club and finished the seven race regatta (one throw out) with a total of twelve points. Robert Blake Jr. with crew Gary Ogden, new elected president of the Day Sailer Association, took third. The "Old Salts" were not to be outdone as Ralph Hansen with his son, David, crewing for him won the seven and last race of the regatta and finished ninth overall. Ralph, who sails out of Orleans Yacht Club on the Cape, celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday at this regatta. Many of us were inspired by Ralph and continue to realize the fun even in five foot swells in Nantucket Sound in this classic boat. There will be many stories shared by young and old, who came from as far away as California, about this great regatta at Stage Harbor Yacht Club.