



North American Cruiser Association

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News Release

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San Diego Doctor Overcomes Adverse Conditions Off Coast of Vancouver, British Columbia, to Win Annual North American Predicted Log Competition

SAN DIEGO, CA, August 15, 2002 — Battling 4- to 12-foot waves and 15-knot winds for part of the 36.6-mile race course off Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Dr. Paul Pettit of San Diego on August 10 won the 2002 North American Invitational (NAI) predicted log competition with an overall error rate of .95%. He also received the trophy for the lowest total predicted finish time with a mere 2-second error. The competition is sponsored annually by North American Cruiser Association (NACA) and hosted each year by a member association; this year by International Power Boat Association (IPBA), Gulf of Georgia.

Piloting a diesel-powered 47-foot Bayliner, Dr. Pettit and his crew bested 13 other predicted log racers — the champions of NACA's member associations, the 2001 NAI defending champion, and a guest racer from Perth, Australia. Dr. Pettit represented San Diego Cruiser Association (SDCA) and Coronado Cays Yacht Club (CCYC).

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Dr. Pettit said this particular competition was a highlight of his 22 years in log racing. “The seas off Vancouver Island were as rough as I’ve ever experienced in a log race,” he noted. “Twice we were engulfed by waves that went over the fly bridge. The wave action was due to an extreme ebb tide and 15-knot winds for a portion of the course.”

The team from Illinois representing the Chicago Yacht Club had to abort the competition and return to port when a “chop” of more than 9 feet caused damage to their vessel, team member Lisa Curcio-Gaston reported.

Over the years, Dr. Pettit has garnered many awards in predicted logging. He has won two national championships and the West Coast (Barusch/Castagna) championship and has been SDCA champion 14 times. Among the many awards he’s received, Dr. Pettit twice was named San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs Yachtsman of the Year. He is past commodore of NACA, SDCA and CCYC.

Other Award Recipients

Mr. Bev Pillsworth of Richmond, British Columbia, representing IPBA, Gulf of Georgia, and Airport Yacht Club, placed second in the 2002 NAI. Third-place finisher was Brian Cutler of Rowland Heights, CA, vice commodore of Southern California Cruiser Association and a member of Shoreline Yacht Club, Long Beach. Clem Hartley of Alameda, CA, representing Predicted Log Racing Association of Northern California and a member of Oakland Yacht Club, took home the Lou Gandelman Perpetual Trophy for outstanding service to the development of predicted log racing.

North American Cruiser Association is a national organization promoting the sport of predicted log racing (aka cruiser navigation) in the United States and Canada. The 29-year-old organization, with roots going back more than 60 years, sanctions competitions by its 12 member associations along the east and west coasts and on the Great Lakes. The 2003 NAI will be hosted by Southern California Cruiser Association, which is comprised of boaters from yacht clubs in the Long Beach / Los Angeles / Ventura area.