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A Wild and Wooly Start for the IOD Worlds

WRITTEN BY JEFF WALLS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2010 AT 12:13 PM

MOUNT DESERT — The International One Design (IOD) World Championships hosted by the Northeast Harbor Fleet began with a bang ... but not from the starting gun.

With winds of 20 knots gusting to 25 knots out of the west-northwest for the first race of the championships, conditions were world class as the combination of 2-foot chop plus the constant wind tested the sailors' mettle.



Skipper Elliott Wislar keeps the helm steady while his daughter, Machenzie, back, and Jennifer Leary, front, get ready to round the leeward mark on the first day of racing at the International One Design World Championships on July 26 off Northeast Harbor. — JEFF WALLS

Before the practice race even started, the mast on *Dram*, skippered by Elliot Wislar from Long Island Sound #2 (LIS#2) snapped due to a backstay letting go. The mast came down in two pieces but all of the crewmembers on board evaded injury. It was a sign of things to come for day one of the championships. "It was like a tree falling in the forest," Mr. Wislar said. It went crack and splinters went everywhere."

"It was like a whole summer's worth of wind, today," said Cuyler Morris, a crewmember for Mr. Wislar.

Before long *Firefly*, with San Francisco #1 skipper Jim Hennefer, snapped a boom as a gust grabbed it on a gybe. And the real racing had yet to begin.

The course began just east of the Gilley Thorofare between Sutton and Great Cranberry Island with a windward start. The windward mark was an offset rounding the marks to port. The leeward mark was a gate giving competitors a choice of rounding the side closer to Great Cranberry or toward Sutton Island.

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WRITTEN BY DICK NANOS, AUGUST 04, 2010

That Eliot could always handle his stick...almost as well as the man in the suitcase. This looks like he is skipping the Eleanor Roosevelt.

+0

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