



WILD WET WOODY

Swifties' (International Swift Solo) shook off their winter cobwebs by heading to Fort De Soto, Florida to blow it out at the 2008 Swift Solo and Musto North American Championship and Clinic.

Near perfect conditions, 75 degree water and 85 degree temperatures, provided more fun than any one person should be allowed to have. The swift, a high-performance wood cored skiff, was conceived by Bram Dally as a trainer for the 49er. It has turned out to be an awesome, brilliant, wonderful, amazing, single-handed three-sailed skiff sporting a total square footage sail area of 420 sq feet. Many of the Swifties' build their own boats, although a few have been built by professionals.

The class is steadily building, with construction rights sold for 91 boats in 16 countries. Bram Dally, original skiff designer said, "I'm totally delighted with the success of the boat." Dally continued, "The class has decided to consider a production manufacturer of the hull as there is significant demand for people who want to join the class but don't have time to build the boat."

Bram Dally said, "The boat is unbelievably fun to sail and it was great to hold our national championships with the Musto guys. This is our third trip to Fort De Soto and it must be one of the best places to sail in North America. The swift class continues to grow at a steady rate and is mostly home-constructed."

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Photograph courtesy of Peggy Watt