



BABA Speed Quest 2008

by Roger Fitzgerald
KA Sails Chesapeake Bay Ambassador

Have you ever wondered how fast you are going on your favorite sail or board? Wanted to see how differences in fin selection, footstrap positions, and sail trim affected your speed? Join me and other BABA members in recording your windsurfing sessions, and participate in the BABA Speed Quest 2008 so that you will be able to compare your results with others and share in the year end prizes.

BABA Speed Quest 2008 will be active from March through October 31, 2008. This is open to all BABA members, all you have to do is record your track with a GPS device, then send the output file to one of the BABA Timekeepers for verification. Your results should also be entered on your personal page on GPS-Speedsurfing.com. This will allow you to enter comments about your sessions and keep a diary to remember the good days. See GPS-Speedsurfing.com for examples, use the search function to search by country if you

want to find your ranking in the USA. <http://www.gps-speedsurfing.com>

Prize Categories: (must be BABA members)

- 1) Fastest overall
- 2) Fastest woman sailor
- 3) Fastest sailor under 16

Your sailing sessions can be anywhere in the world - this contest is for BABA sailors wherever they sail. Your tracks may be used to show maps of your sailing locations, and they could show up in future BABA Newsletters. It will be nice to see how widely our members travel through the year, and to compare speeds from different sites.

A new speed sailing site in the UK, Southend-on-Sea, was recently discovered by windsurfers. This is the kind of thing that we might be able to find at Hatteras or somewhere in the mid-Atlantic area - a sandbar that provides smooth water for speed sailing. Please send photos and descriptions of site access in addition to your GPX files if you find a good sailing location.

Enjoy your sailing, and share your sessions so we can all see how good your favorite spot is.

BABA Speed Quest 2008 Guidelines

1) Register with GPS-Speedsurfing.com and follow their rules. This is a free website run by windsurfers. The 5 x 10 second speed category will be used for this contest.

2) Buy a GPS device if you do not have one already. The recommended device for this purpose is the Navi GT-11, find a dealer by searching on the <http://www.locosystech.com> site, the Canadian dealer, <http://www.mobilegpsonline.com> had them in stock in March 2008 for \$110 + shipping. Garmin eTrex or eTrex Legend also work well, just make sure your device will download your track to a computer in GPX format.

3) Download free software to transfer files from your GPS to your computer. GPSAR works well to analyze the files. Links to the software are on the GPS-Speedsurfing.com site. One software that they do not mention is EasyGPS, this is another free program that will extract your tracks and save them in the required GPX format: <http://www.easygps.com/>

4) Log your sessions on GPS-Speedsurfing.com: be sure to mention your BABA membership in the comments. Eventually we may be able to get GPS-Speedsurfing to allow you to select this event, „ÄÜBABA Speed Quest 2008,ÄÜ from a menu, but the web site is not quite ready for that yet. Results may be posted on a page on that site as well as the BABA website.

5) Send your files (GPX format) via email to one of the BABA Timekeepers. Be sure to label your file with your name and date. example: roger_fitzgerald_5March_08.gpx

Roger Fitzgerald: fitz@qis.net

Craig Heffner: heffnha@verizon.net

6) How to carry your GPS: Even though many of the GPS devices are listed as “waterproof”, this does not mean they will withstand 25 knot blasts of water. Always sail with your GPS device enclosed in an AquaPac type holder - some include a window to view results.

7) Where and when to sail: Sail anywhere you like, this contest is limited only by time (**March - October 31, 2008**) and it is limited to BABA members. The 2009 Speed Quest will begin November 1, 2008, so we won’t lose out on the winter winds for our speed records.

8) Caution: Sail carefully! Don’t push beyond your limits just to set a speed record, and take all your normal sailing precautions when sailing. Just have your GPS turned on to record the results.

9) Entry Fee: BABA will be making a donation to support GPS-Speedsurfing.com, so each sailor should pay \$5 to BABA to cover the whole years worth of speed. Use the Speedquest Registration form to sign-up, and save a stamp and mail it with your 2008 BABA Membership Renewal.

**BABA Speed Quest
Registration Form
is on page 7.**



BABA Speed Quest 2008 Registration Form

Any BABA member who wants to participate in the 2008 Speed Quest should fill out this form and send in your entry fee of \$5 per person with your dues. That entry fee covers as many entries as you want to submit, from March to October 31, 2008. Only your fastest 5 x 10 second average speed will be posted in the year end results.

Contact Roger Fitzgerald (fitz@qis.net) or Craig Heffner (heffnha@verizon.net) if you have any questions.

Name: _____

Choose one Class: Unlimited: _____ Women: _____ under 16: _____

email: _____ phone: _____

GPS make and model: _____

Note: all participants must have a signed BABA membership form on file, including the waiver.

Save a stamp and mail your 2008 Speed Quest Registration and fee along with your membership renewal to Ann Jackson. See the BABA Website for a membership renewal form and Ann's address.
