

## **BABA Speed Quest 2009**

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 2009 will be active from November 1, 2008 to October 31, 2009. 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.

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.

Roger Fitzgerald  
KA Chesapeake Bay Ambassador

### **BABA Speed Quest 2009 Rules**

- 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-31, find a dealer by searching on the <http://www.locosystech.com> site, the Canadian dealer, <http://www.mobilegpsonline.com> had them in stock in Jan 2009 for \$129 + 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. GPSResults offers a 30 day free trial, and it provides all the analysis for record keeping. 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) **Logging 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, “BABA Speed Quest 2009” from a menu, but the web site is not quite ready for that, 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: roger\_fitzgerald\_5March\_09.gpx  
  
Roger Fitzgerald: [fitz@qis.net](mailto:fitz@qis.net)  
  
Craig Heffner: [heffnha@verizon.net](mailto: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 November 1, 2008 to Oct. 31, 2009) and it is limited to BABA members.
- 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:** Each sailor pays just \$5 to BABA to cover the whole years worth of speed. Include your Speed Quest Fee and registration form when you pay your dues.

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