

# UBC Sails Through Autonomous Competition: An Update on UBC's Sailbot Team

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The weekend of June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> presented a great challenge to three autonomous sailboat teams from Queen's, UBC and Waterloo. Queen's University hosted a three-part competition to test the hard work of the three teams. The first part of the competition involved completing a navigation test, where the vessel is to autonomously navigate upwind approximately 20 metres, round a buoy and return through the starting gate. The second leg of the competition is a match race, where each team controls the rudder of their vessel. The final portion of the competition is a presentation where the teams present their design to a panel of judges. Detailed information on the competition is available on the web at <http://engsoc.queensu.ca/sailboat/competition/index.htm>.



**UBC's Sailbot Team**

Overall, the event was a great success; UBC took first place in the competition followed by Queen's and the two teams from Waterloo. UBC's carbon fibre monohull boat was equipped with GPS, wind instrumentation, wireless connectivity, motorized sail controls, a camera and a central processing unit to crunch all of the data. The UBC boat completed the autonomous portion of the course in 1 minute and 43 seconds.

The June 2007 OMAE conference in San Diego will be the next opportunity to see the UBC team in action.

The UBC team would like to thank their many supporters that made their victory possible. Special thanks goes out to the SNAME PNW section, Aker Yards Marine Inc. (Dan and Dave), Robert Allan Ltd. (Rob), Via Technologies (Stella), MiniPC.com (Ryan), North Sails, Alan Andrews Yacht Design, S & H Custom Yachts, FibreTek, National Instruments, Oregon Scientific, RP Electronics, Queen's University, The University of British Columbia (Jon Mikkelsen and Gord Wright), and the many followers that were always interested in the status of the project.



**UBC's Sailbot Underway**

On behalf of the naval architecture students at UBC, 'congratulations' to this team of hardworking, sailing enthusiasts!