

June 18, 2016

Hello Skippers,

We held the June ODOM regatta today under absolutely cloudless skies and some heat also. The temps started in the low 70s but by the time we were packing up it had reached 90. The wind was predicted to be 6-8mph from the east, but it was mostly about 0-3mph. The last 45 minutes or so it did finally(!) fill in a little more steady at about 3-4mph. We got in 12 races with 10 skippers. The results are attached and also shown below. I would like to especially thank Kent for doing all the scoring and acting as race director. Kent managed to mix things up again, too. More on that below.

We set up on the south shore, since we expected the prevailing easterlies. We had many races where the direction was more SE to SSE, making windward legs very challenging since the wind was swirling off the land onto the water. A number of times my wind indicator was telling me something different than the sails were showing, meaning we were getting some thermal activity and differences in wind direction at the surface and just 4 feet above the surface. It was enough to drive one crazy. A couple of the races started with ENE winds and for those we used the far windward buoy only as the rounding mark to get a better windward leg.

We put in three single-lap races and then Kent started assigning handicap starts (30 seconds early) to one or two boats that were at the back of the fleet. That system seemed to help overall, especially if we had somewhat steady wind. Since the wind was very flaky for most of the morning, we did not run every race under the new handicap system.

As the wind finally started to settle in, Kent called for the last four races to be run as 1-1/4 laps with us finishing between the windward buoys. Then race #11 was called to use both the windward and leeward buoys as gates. For the last race, we employed the double gates but also added the condition that the start line would be poison, so skippers had to decide which course to take relatively early in the leg. Skippers seemed to like the change of pace!

With the challenging conditions today, there was not one skipper who dominated the fleet. You will see the first 4 places were separated by just 4 points! Congrats to Barry for maintaining consistency to take 1st place.

I would also like to thank Tom Q, Terry B, and especially Chuck Drake for assisting retrieving Jim Hayes' boat after the regatta. Jim's rudder servo seemed to have locked up in the turn position and so it took some pretty good skill to get that wayward vessel back to shore. Thanks Chuck!

Don't forget that next Saturday, June 25, is the Circumnavigate Regatta. Once again, Kent will be acting as race director for this epic event. I hope to see you all there!

Don