

April 8, 2017

Hello Skippers,

Today we held the first Victoria regatta of our new season. This had been delayed from last week due to the inclement weather we had. The lake level is still very low, with about 25' of lake bed exposed. The weather was perfect for sailing - high 60s when we started and about mid-70s when we finished. We had cloudy skies for the majority of the racing so the sun didn't have a chance to bake us. The winds were about 6mph, gusting to 10 or 12 at times, at least for the first couple of hours. More on this below. I would also like to welcome two new skippers who joined us for their first regatta: John Wyss (#28) and Rich Bryan (#67)! We had a quite large fleet of 15 boats today and we got in 12 races. The results are shown below and are also attached as a separate spreadsheet.

The wind direction had been predicted to be southerly. When we arrived it was a SE wind which made the usual south shore quite patchy and no promise of a good windward leg. For this reason, we set up on the west shore, anticipating those predicted southerly winds. In addition, a buoy was thrown off the south shore which we used extensively as a windward mark for a SE wind. The normal box course was set up off the west shore.

The first couple of races we ran as one lap, going all the way out to that lone buoy off the south shore as the only windward mark. Since that mark was quite far away, we allowed touching it with no penalty. With the wind speed holding well, we then started running 1-1/4 laps where we finished between the two windward marks off the west shore. We ran a number of races this way until the wind decided to die down and think about a new direction. With 15 boats on the start line, we had some pretty hectic starts, complicated by the fact the line was favoring a port tack for many of the races. It was a rough way to start the season, especially for the newcomers.

Sometime after noon, the wind dropped to such a point where we waited for about 5 minutes to get some kind of wind. One race started to the south in VERY light air and then when it finally filled in, it was more from the northeast. We did also run one race heading north as the wind started to fill in at about 2-3 mph.

I had to use a tie-breaker rule to determine the ordering for Rich Bryan and Bill McGregor. Rich came out on top due to his second place finish over Bill's third place finish. Congratulations Rich! You will also see places 4 - 13 were tightly grouped - lots of competition in this Victoria fleet!

See you at the pond,

Don