

October 21, 2017

Hello Skippers,

We held our October ODOM regatta today and it was rather unconventional. We completed the regatta with 6 skippers braving the conditions (see below) and completing 11 races. It was quite cool today with temps only 50 degrees and some wind chill effect also. I'd like to thank Jay Herrmann (a new recruit from Dillon, CO!), Powers Foss and Kent Broadhead for doing the scoring today. The results are attached and also posted below.

We've had two very windy Saturdays this October already and the forecast for today was 17-19mph winds with a possibility it would reduce just a little during the regatta. A few years ago we imposed a 20mph wind limit on racing the ODOMs to avoid damaging the boats and sails. At 10:00, Ken Hegy measured 17.5mph during the gusts and about 14 in between. Even though it was less than 20mph, it did seem marginal to be trying to race. The wind direction was WNW so we set up a course on the south shore with a NW buoy thrown off the west shore.

Three skippers launched to test the waters. We found with a properly tuned boat (sails flattened) the ODOMs were doing just fine in the wind. We ran 5 races for fun and then noticed the wind was starting to slacken a little. The other three skippers launched their boats and we decided to commence with the regatta. At this point, it was about 11:00 and the winds were at about 14mph, with not much gusting.

We ran three races, the first a single lap and the next two as 1-1/4 laps finishing between the windward marks. By now the wind had started increasing again, and we lost two skippers to the higher winds. With four skippers left we continued on for two more races to make the regatta official. We ran those two races using the NW buoy since the wind had shifted a little to the NW direction.

After 5 races, we found the wind starting to back off again so we continued racing; after all that's what we came out for! This second set of races were mostly with winds around 10mph and some legs had winds of only 4-5mph. Harper Lake's soft conditions had returned. Despite the scary forecast for wind, it turned out to be a great day for racing ODOMs.

See you at the pond,

Don