

Hello Skippers,

Today we held our postponed 17th Annual Circumnavigate Regatta! Temperatures were quite warm, starting in the mid 70s and reaching the low 90s when we wrapped up the day. It was full sun for most of the day, with just a few clouds near the end of the day. Again, this regatta was Kent Broadhead's great idea 17 years ago and we've been enjoying it ever since. Thanks again Kent for setting up this big event and running the regatta!

Before we get to the details I would like to thank the following folks who really helped make this special event happen:

- Kent for setting up the course around the lake and the channel leading from our “harbor” to our “ocean.” Also thanks to Kent for acting as Race Director and running the different class starts and scoring the races.
- Chuck Drake for his excellent preparation of the registration and scoring sheets.
- Ken Hegy for supplying the cooler, ice and water, and the plates and napkins and one of the tables.
- Rich Roberts for supplying the new can buoy for our harbor with the cowbell. That was a great addition to the course!
- Tom Quesenbery for getting the pizza delivered to the lake.
- Sharon Kopp for taking some photos of the event.
- Special thanks to the members and guests of the Broomfield Model Yacht Club who came out to enjoy a day of racing, food, and camaraderie.
- And a special thanks to Bill McGregor for dealing with the Louisville Park Ranger who requested we take down the shade canopies to comply with our permit.

We had 17 skippers come out for the big event this year after the COVID cancellation last year. Hans Bucher came out to Harper Lake for the first time and joined the club - welcome Hans! The fleet comprised 4 ODOMs, 2 Victorias, 4 Solings, and 4 boats for the Open Class (a DF65, a T-50, a Soling 50, and an EC12). In addition, we had 3 schooners at the lake and they decided to form their own class just for fun. This allowed us to have five different start sequences.

Since the DF65 was in the Open Class but quite a bit smaller than the other Open Class boats, it started first followed by the Victorias, then the Solings, the ODOMs, and then the Open class. The schooners then started after the Open Class.

The first race was counterclockwise around the lake, started at 10:30, and had virtually no wind. The wind consisted of just little puffs and thermal activity that was very erratic. These conditions existed around most of the course. Heading up the eastern shore, the wind was primarily out of the north at less than 1mph so skippers had to search for zephyrs as they made their way up the shore. The north shore leg was quite a drifter waiting for any more puffs.

The final leg of the race coming down the western shore featured a more definitive breeze finally, from the east at first and then from the south. It was still very light, however. The first boats finished about 90 minutes after the start while the schooners finished almost 2 hours after they started.

Tom placed the pizza order at noon and skippers rested from the fatiguing conditions. Kent and I decided folks were unlikely to want to do a second lap around the lake especially if the wind did not improve. Kent moved the eastern buoy so that it was just off the point by the cottonwood tree and then proceeded to pick up the other buoys around the lake.

After lunch the wind did fill in from the northeast at about 2-3mph. However, it turned out to be up and down in speed. With at least a little more wind than we had in the morning, some skippers ran some impromptu racing along the south shore while others socialized with folks we had not seen for two years. Denny also lent his ODOM to a new prospective member and his son to try out; they were quite impressed and may be joining the club soon.

I may have misunderstood Kent's intentions for what would occur after lunch when I announced that the circumnavigate was in the books and would just count the one and only race around the lake. The final results for the four classes and the special schooner class are shown below. First place winners received a traveling trophy built by Kent Broadhead.

Thanks again to everyone for making this a great event!

See you at the pond,
Don