

The July ODOM regatta was held today under warm, but very hazy skies due to the smoke from the wildfires out west. The temperature started in the high 70s and was up in the high 80s when we finished. We got in 10 races and 12 skippers came out for the regatta, including 4 ODOM skippers whom we had not seen this season yet for an ODOM regatta: Rich Bryan, Tom Quesenbery, Bill McGregor, and Roc Dietz. It was great seeing all these familiar faces! The results are shown below and are also attached to this email.

When I arrived at the lake, the Louisville Park Rangers were setting up on the south shore for a fishing derby. The wind was light but coming from the north which is what Weatherunderground had predicted. During the regatta the forecast was for the wind to clock around to the east by about noon and increase to 5-6 mph. We set up on the west shore.

The first few races featured a northerly or NNE wind and getting to the windward buoy typically involved just one or two tacks. The wind was still less than 3mph, dipping below 1mph during the races at times. By the third race, the wind was already shifting toward the northeast, leaving us with no real windward leg. I tried towing a buoy out further like I have seen Barry do it, but I am not Barry. I was unsuccessful and managed to lose my drain cork in the process which I discovered about an hour later (fortunately no water got in the boat.)

Then Rich Bryan spotted a kayaker just launching his craft and asked him to pull a buoy out for us. He graciously agreed and managed to get a good placement for a northeast buoy and we sailed a few more races using that as our windward leg. Still the wind was quite light and variable in speed.

The wind then continued to move to the east. I ended up throwing another buoy off the south shore to create a windward leg to the east now that all the fishing people were gone. The first attempt to use this buoy was during a race where the wind again dropped to nearly zero for much of the race so I shortened the course as we headed east. The last two races did use that far buoy which we agreed could be touched with no penalty since it was so far from the west shore and we did not allow walking on the south shore. Again, with very light wind, these two races ended up being quite lengthy in time.

Despite the trying conditions, it was a fun day for racing.

See you at the pond!

Don