

October 2, 2021

Hello Skippers,

The October Victoria regatta was held today under beautiful fall weather. We had sunny skies and temps in the 60s and low 70s. A gorgeous day for sailing. Twelve skippers came out to race but only 11 were able to race at least one race; more on that below. We completed 17 races and the results are shown below and in the attached spreadsheet. We also had a new skipper sailing with us today: Wayne Asbury! Welcome aboard, Wayne!

The wind was forecast to be primarily northeast, which is always difficult to deal with since it is hard to get a buoy far enough offshore to get a good windward leg set up. In addition, the 2-3mph wind we observed at the lake around 10:00 was out of the north. So we traipsed over to the west shore and set up a standard box course over there.

With the threat of the NE winds, I asked Barry to sail a buoy further offshore at the top of the course. In the process of doing that, Barry accidentally dropped his transmitter in the lake. Within a few minutes, his transmitter was dead; fortunately he got his boat back to shore before then. At that point, Barry volunteered to be Race Director for the day. Thanks so much Barry for taking this on!

The first 4 races were run using that far offshore buoy since the wind had shifted back to NE. At the start of each race we had reasonable wind, but by the time we got halfway around the course, the wind had dropped to below 1mph. For three of the races, we had no offset mark on the windward end so as boats rounded the mark to head to the leeward mark, it was very tricky to get through the fleet successfully. During the second race, Denny unfortunately was involved in a collision and had to retire for the rest of the regatta. So now we were down to 10 boats on the course.

After the 4th race, the wind appeared to have settled into an easterly direction, so Barry decided we should move to the south shore and set up the course over there. Everyone pitched in to pull in the buoys and transport them to the other shore along with all their own personal belongings. Barry again put a buoy as far offshore as he could to give us a windward leg in case the NE winds came back.

And within one race, those NE winds did indeed come back. The wind speed slowly built up to about 4mph toward the end of the racing day, but stuck to pretty much NE and sometimes almost north, and once we even had some temporary northwest winds. We sailed a modified box course using the two buoys furthest offshore on the windward side and then rounded the two leeward buoys before crossing the finish line. The leeward buoys were fairly deep in the Barrymuda triangle by the culvert so getting around them proved to be a challenge again.

Still, it was a great day to be sailing in Colorado!

See you at the pond!

Don