

September 18, 2021

Hello Skippers,

The ODOM Rocky Mountain Regatta was conducted today with 8 skippers coming out to race. We had sunny skies with temps starting out around 70 and reaching the high 80s by mid-afternoon. We got in 20 races before we decided to call it a day under the increasing heat again. The results are pasted below and in the attached spreadsheet.

I want to first thank Kent Broadhead who came out to act as Race Director. We had some very challenging course conditions that are detailed below and Kent made the racing very interesting. Kent also called the start line and took care of scorekeeping duties. The first course after lunch had some communication issues and Kent decided he needed a break. Greg LaLiberte volunteered to take over as Race Director for the rest of the regatta - thank you Greg. Chuck took care of all the registration details again - thanks Chuck! And Ken once again supplied the ice and water and plates and paper towels and table for lunch - thanks Ken!

At 9:00 when I arrived at the lake, there was a contingent of 4 or 5 fishermen on the south shore, starting about halfway down the normal stretch of shore we usually use. The west shore was free, but the wind direction was predicted to be ESE for the entire regatta. So our normal course on the south shore would have been ideal. As the start time for the regatta drew near, there was absolutely no indication these fishermen were going to be packing up so we needed to make some significant compromises on our part.

Kent set up some buoys off the south shore with a start line tucked into the Barrymuda triangle to make the course as long as possible. We threw out three buoys along the south shore, getting as close to the fishermen as we could. Two other buoys were thrown off the west shore, mostly as insurance against a significant wind direction change.

The first few races utilized the midway buoy off the west shore as the wind was trying to be southeasterly. Wind speeds were below 2mph. The first few races also included multiple trips to that west shore buoy, making for longer race times but fun challenges.

As the wind finally moved around to the ESE, we started utilizing more of the buoys off the south shore. Kent had us do multiple laps to the furthest buoy and also used the close-in starting mark as a rounding buoy. The winds were so fickle down in the dreaded Barrymuda triangle that it took a lot of focus to get around that mark. Wind speeds were still 0-2mph. Some of the races used the start line as a gate for the leeward end of the course, making for some strategy decisions.

As lunch time approached, the wind was finally starting to pick up a little, closer to 3-4mph and even swung a little bit to the ENE. We ran a few shorter races right before lunch and ended up with 9 completed races when the pizza arrived.

After lunch, the wind remained primarily east to ENE and was holding relatively steady at 3-4mph with a few sudden puffs. The fishermen were still intact on the south shore. Barry had sailed a buoy further offshore than the original one and we started to use that as an offset windward buoy to avoid massive traffic jams rounding the close-in windward buoy

before the fleet could achieve separation. We ran a number of one lap races using a modified box course with only one buoy at the leeward end of the course. After completing 20 races in the rising heat, the consensus was to end the regatta just after 2:00. The fishermen had finally left around 1:30 but we were too close to the end of the regatta to stop and reset any marks.

I did a manual calculation at the lake to determine who had won the plaques. After our 20 races the final results showed:

4th place: Greg Norris with 56 points

3rd place: Barry Hight, 37 points

2nd place: Don Verhaeghe, 35 points

1st place: Greg LaLiberte, 19 points

See you at the pond next weekend for the first ever DF65 Rocky Mountain Regatta with yours truly serving as Race Director.

Don