

September 11, 2021

Hello Skippers,

Today we held the first post-COVID Rocky Mountain Regatta. Ten Victoria skippers came out to compete under mostly sunny skies and temperatures ranging from the mid 70s to the low 90s once we finished around 2:00. We ended up with 21 races completed, which is the most I ever recall sailing in one day at HLMYC! Denny sent out the results and they are pasted down below also and in the attached spreadsheet.

I want to first give a very hearty thank-you to Greg LaLiberte who did an excellent job as Race Director, calling all the courses with our difficult wind situation, watching the starting line, and handling all the scoring. Hip, hip, hooray for Greg! I'd also like to thank Chuck for handling all the registration details and getting the plaques made for us. And a thank you also to Ken for bringing the table we used and all the fixings for our pizza lunch, including ice-cold water which was so much needed.

The wind was forecast to be primarily out of the south until about 2:00. When we started setting up the buoys, we also had quite a contingent of folks fishing on the south shore. So we set up a course on the west shore and one buoy thrown from the south shore. As 10:30 rolled in, the wind was definitely out of the east, confounding myself and our race director. The wind was coming in at 4-5mph so it was welcome except for the direction.

Greg had us start with a simple 1-lap box course. Then we started utilizing the far mark (off the south shore). Courses were called where we sailed to the far mark either directly or rounding one of the other two southern marks first. The northern buoys were sometimes added into the course to challenge us. Many races included two roundings of the far mark. Due to its distance from the west shore, this mark was also allowed to be touched with no penalty.

The wind moved to the southeast for many races, giving us some good windward legs going to that far mark. The wind speed was holding mostly in the 3-5mph range, but there were some lulls that had to be dealt with also. A few times, the wind did actually switch to the south, but not for long. And we even got some northeasterly breezes too which resulted in some races not having a direct upwind leg. Such is Harper Lake.

We stopped for pizza about 12:20. With the fishing contingent gone, we had planned on moving the buoys to the south shore. But the east wind did not return. At lunch time, the wind was decidedly southeast and so Greg chose to leave the buoys as they were.

After lunch, we resumed racing, utilizing the far mark off the south shore again. Choosing the best path to that mark proved to be critical as the wind was swirling down in the corner by the culvert (the notorious Barrymuda triangle) and a number of positions could be gained or lost down there.

After 7 more races were in the books in the increasing heat, we took a poll of the skippers and everyone voted to call it a day. Due to technical issues with our electronic scoring, we did not finalize the results at the lake and so the plaques will be handed out when the skippers are back at the lake.

See you at the pond next weekend for the ODOM Rocky Mountain Regatta with Kent Broadhead serving as our Race Director.

Don