

April 16, 2022

Hello Skippers,

Today we held the first ODOM regatta of the new season. Under sunny skies but quite cool temperatures, 9 skippers came out and competed in 11 races. Temps started in the upper 30s and reached the upper 40s when we wrapped up at 1:00. The wind was primarily out of the north, so that made it feel even colder.

Even though the wind was out of the north before 10:00, the forecast was for it to move to ENE or east by 11:00. Since the forecast also said the wind would start out of the north, it was plausible the forecast would be correct. We set up on the south shore and Barry was kind enough to throw a third windward buoy further than the two I had originally set, in the event a northeast wind came in.

When we started, the wind was, at best, NNE at about 2mph. We went out to the furthest buoy only on windward, then around the two leeward buoys and back to the finish. The wind kept disappearing, so we were sailing with winds anywhere from 0-2mph. Occasionally we would get a puff closer to 4-5mph but those lasted only for a minute or two.

After about 3 or 4 races, with no windward legs available, I decided to try a different approach. I reset one of the starting pins further down the shore, about 1/3 of the way between the starting line and the windward buoys. This buoy was directly downwind from the far offshore buoy Barry had set.

We then ran most of our races with a new course: starting line to the far offshore buoy, back to the offshore starting buoy, to the new buoy, then upwind to the far offshore buoy and then back to the finish line. It was sort of a two half-lap course just using the windward half of the course. In general, the skippers seemed to like the new course. A couple of races were started heading west as we had some westerly types of winds.

The wind definitely was substandard and moved around more than I ever expected, but we still had a good inaugural regatta to kick off the season.

See you at the pond!

Don