

July 23, 2022

Hello Skippers,

We held our July ODOM regatta today. Skies were clear to partly cloudy and temperatures were in the 90s once again. Nine skippers came out to compete and we got in 8 races.

Upon arrival at the lake, the water was a sheet of glass. The prediction was for winds eventually out of the east and moving to NNE. Speeds were predicted to build to about 7mph by 1:00. We set up the course on the south shore. Denny brought out his new buoy-setting boat which allowed us to take a windward buoy further out than we could throw one, just in case the wind did swing toward the NE. Thanks for bringing that out, Denny - it was very useful!

By 10:30, a very light easterly breeze did appear at about 1-2mph. We started with doing a one-lap simple box course. The winds were still quite fickle and they died a number of times during the race, making the course seem quite long.

By about 11:30, the wind shifted to the NE and picked up to about 8mph - a very beautiful breeze for sailing ODOMs. It was right then that my boat decided to give up and I had no radio control. I want to thank Karl for his superb effort(!) to bring my boat back to shore so that we could continue the regatta.

We ran a couple more races just using the far offshore buoy on the windward leg as the wind started to gain even more speed. WE also started running 1-1/4 lap races due to the good wind speed. By now the wind was beyond NE, and settled in at NNE. In an effort to get some windward work into the race, the next course had the skippers sail to the windward buoy closest to shore and then go all the way out to the far offshore buoy. That did not result in any tacking either.

Now our NNE wind was up to about 15mph. I decided to mix things up a bit and put another buoy part way down the course so that a line from that buoy to the far offshore buoy would be directly upwind. The last race involved two trips on the new upwind leg among other legs. This finally did result in some tacking. However, as the first boats were finishing this race, the winds had now reached over 22mph (NOT in the forecast!), and since 20mph is our limit for sailing ODOMs, we stopped the regatta at that point. There was clearly no sign the wind was going to let up. So we were only able to complete 8 races today.

Congratulations to the skippers who were able to handle those wild conditions. It's been a while since we had winds like this. I am sorry I didn't get to sail those wild races.

See you at the pond,

Don