

June 10, 2022

ODOM Regatta Report

Yes, only 4 of us were there! We were surprised, but not shocked at this since the forecast called for temperatures near 100. Denny arrived early and staked out the racing area with a couple of buoys to give a hint to the fishermen. One of them moved out of the area before we started setting up. I spotted some nice-sized fish just off the shore, so there are still fish left in the lake. Before we got started, a guy had bought a bunch of popsicles for his work crew who were probably working on the fire cleanup. He offered some of the extra ones to us which we gladly accepted because it was already quite warm.

The winds were generally light and intermittent, switching back and forth between coming from the east and the south. We set up on the south shore in the usual place, setting only one buoy at each of the west and east ends and a single pair for the start. We were using a backup set of buoys and I managed to break a line while trying to toss one out for the far starting buoy. The buoy drifted into the west bank and somehow managed to drag the washers with it, even though the line had snapped. One ship got snagged on another buoy and it just seemed that everything was going wrong! We eventually decided to plan on doing 5 races, which is the minimum needed for a regatta. The racing was slow due to the light winds and so it took a while just to get 5 done. In typical Harper Lake fashion, the wind would kick up a bit between the races. The same good winds were in effect after the 5th race and so we decided to go again. After that, we all felt like it was getting too hot and it wasn't going to be much fun to race anymore unless we had good steady winds, which wasn't