

September 17, 2022 – ODOM Class Rocky Mountain Regatta

Hello Skippers,

We held the first Rocky Mountain Regatta of the year today since the Victoria RMR had to be postponed until October 8. We had mostly sunny skies with temperatures starting in the low 70s and ending in the mid 80s. Nine skippers came out to compete for the plaques and chevrons. We completed 20 races and the results are shown below and are also attached.

First I would like to thank Stew Williams who did a fine job as Race Director! Chuck did a great job organizing the registrations and getting the plaques made from a new supplier. And thanks to Ken Hegy for bringing the ice and paper plates and garbage bag while Stew also brought out the water for us. I would also like to thank everyone who collected buoys at the end of the regatta while I compiled the results for the top 3 places.

The winds were out of the SSE when the buoys were first set off the south shore so an extra buoy was thrown off the west shore to use for a windward leg back to the finish area. The winds were forecast to clock around to the east through the morning and afternoon. Winds started at 8-10mph which was a nice relief.

At 10:30, Stew called the first course which involved the two buoys to the east, then out to the far buoy off the west shore and then back to the finish line. Because the wind was coming off the south shore, it was very flaky getting to the first buoy. Even more surprising was how light the wind was going to the second buoy at the eastern end of the course. Once the boats could round that buoy and head to the far buoy, the wind was a little more plentiful as we got further away from shore.

Coming around that far buoy and having a tacking leg back to the finish line turned out to be much trickier than expected. The wind was swirling around a bit and difficult to determine its direction when the boats were so far away from us. Estimating the lay line to the finish line also proved to be difficult as many skippers needed an extra tack due to missing the finish buoy by about 5 feet. The expectation was this course was going to be short-lived since the wind was supposed to clock around to the east. In reality, we used this course for about the first 15 races.

After we got 10 races in the books, it was time to take a break for our pizza lunch. We resumed about 12:45 with the wind still blowing from the SSE. While the winds had been relatively steady at about 8mph most of the morning, the afternoon brought decreasing winds. The rest of the day we had about 5mph winds and sometimes a little less than that. We still used the morning course for about 5 races until the wind died for a few minutes and then came up out of the east. Finally!

For the final 5 races, we ended up sailing our standard box course and ignoring the west shore buoy. The windward legs still proved to be challenging. At about 2:30 or so, with 20 races completed, we all agreed it was time to wrap up the ODOM RMR.

The top 5 finishers were as follows:

5th place: Ken Hegy, 82 pts
4th place: Don Verhaeghe, 61 pts
3rd place: Greg Norris, 44 pts
2nd place: Barry Hight, 34 pts
1st place: Greg LaLiberte, 20 pts

Congratulations to Greg, Barry, and Greg who took home the plaques!

See you at the pond,

Don