

2012 Rocky Mountain Regatta

ODOM Class Report

by Don Verhaeghe

We had 15 skippers attend this year's ODOM green chevron event. The racing was quite challenging, as I will describe below. We only got in 13 races, despite the extended sailing time (we stopped at 3:00).

First I'd like to thank **James Hayward** who once again presided as Race Director. He did a great job keeping the regatta moving forward and choosing the start line and courses throughout the long day. Also, I'd like to thank **Bill McGregor** for doing the score keeping again - 2nd Rocky Mountain regatta in a row. Thanks to **Ken Hegy** for bringing a table and all the water and soft drinks for our pizza lunch AND for bringing Jack (his model Chris-Craft) to help put some buoys way off the point. And a thank you to **Tom Quesenbery** for ordering our pizza. And also a thank you to all who helped set up the course and start line - twice!!

Before we threw any marks in the water, we had a beautiful northerly breeze at about 5-6 mph. We decided to start on the west shore as that would give us a great windward-leeward course. Once we set up and all the boats were in the water, the wind went to bed. We occasionally would get a puff that would last for a few minutes, but the direction was shifting more to the east, giving us more reaching legs rather than windward-leeward. But the majority of time the wind was below 1 mph, making for frustrating times on the pond.

By pizza time, we had only completed 5 races. Also, when the wind did blow more than 1 mph, it was out of the east. We took advantage of the lunch break and moved the course to the south shore to hopefully get some better windward racing. **Ken Hegy** fired up Jack to pull the windward marks way offshore for a Northeast wind which was still showing up from time to time. Setting a long start line managed to run Jack's battery down, but I was able to pull Jack back in safely under sail power to get the second half of the regatta started.

The wind was still very light and at times it seemed each boat on the course had its own wind direction and speed. At least one, maybe two, races were started heading west since we had a prevailing westerly zephyr at the start. One race to the west was taking so long, some folks forgot we started the race going west and thought they were finishing after only doing half the race. Thankfully, we had a race director who could remind people of the proper course. The last hour of racing finally brought in a gentle easterly breeze and so we raced right up to 3:00. Unfortunately 3 skippers had mechanical or battery problems and so we only finished with 12 boats. This was one of the most challenging, light air days we've had racing since I joined HLMYC in 2008.

Congratulations to our top 3 skippers of the day winning green chevrons for 2012:

Terry Britton - 26 points - 1st place
Greg LaLiberte - 28 points - 2nd place
Denny Hanson - 37 points - 3rd place

See you at the pond,
Don