

September 20, 2014

Hello Skippers,

We held our Rocky Mountain ODOM regatta today. We had 14 skippers show up so it was a great turnout. Even though we sailed well past lunch, we only completed 12 races – more on that below.

First, I'd like to give a big thank-you to James Hayward who once again volunteered to act as the ODOM RMR race director. Thanks again to Ken Hegy for supplying the table, ice and water, plates and paper towels for our pizza lunch. And another thank-you to Denny Hanson for supplying the canopy. Finally, thanks to Tom Quesenbery for getting our pizza lunch delivered to the lake.

I should also mention that Bill McGregor had a rough incident throwing one of the buoys out. He managed to get his finger in the way and received a huge gash. He sailed the entire regatta with us but reported afterwards he received six stitches in his finger! Be careful throwing those buoys out! Heal quickly, Bill.

The day started in the mid 60s but climbed up to about 80 when we finished racing. The shade provided by the canopy was much appreciated! We had sunny skies and light wind so it was plenty warm for the entire day of racing.

When we set up the course at 9:30 a beautiful north breeze was blowing so we set up on the west shore. By the time we got the boats in the water (about 10:15), the wind was backing off and getting shifty. It appeared to favor a northeast direction now. Since the south shore was occupied by fishermen, we decided to send a third buoy way offshore (thanks Barry!) to give us a windward leg for NE winds. In addition, the offshore starting mark was pulled out further by Ken Hegy's Chris Craft (thanks Ken!).

After the additional course arranging, it was almost 11:00. We started with winds measuring just over 2mph. We only sailed single lap courses all day since the wind would not remain steady for an entire race. When the wind shifted to the northeast, James would call for a course using the far offshore mark and the second off shore mark for the windward leg, which worked well.

By lunch time, we only had 5 races completed. After lunch, the wind continued to be flaky. Some races started with a southeast wind so James called for a south start and the offshore buoy only. We had course changes on just about every race as the wind could not pick a steady direction. And the speed never got over 3 mph the entire day.

By 2:15, we had 12 races completed and everyone said they had enough for the day. The top five positions were as follows:

5th place – Barry Hight – 41 points  
4th place - Don Verhaeghe – 40  
3rd place – Tom Quesenbery – 30  
2nd place – Denny Hanson – 27  
1st place – Terry Britton – 23

See you at the pond,

Don