

September 11, 2016

Hello Skippers,

Today we held the 8th annual ODOM class Rocky Mountain Regatta. We had 9 skippers competing for the green chevrons. This was a special arrangement to race on Sunday so that we could have a tune-up race of sorts just before the ODOM NCR next weekend. We got in 16 races over a long day of flaky wind. The results are attached and shown below.

I'd like to thank Kent Broadhead for acting as our race director and scorekeeper and doing a great job under difficult conditions. Thank you Kent! Kent also took time to set up our HLMYC flags to make the regatta more festive. And thanks again to Ken Hegy for supplying the table, ice, water, napkins, and paper plates for lunch. Thanks goes to Tom Quesenbery for handling the pizza order again.

The race day started with cooler weather than Saturday at about 60 degrees with a fair amount of clouds. After a couple hours, the clouds moved out and we had sunny skies the rest of the day with the temperature climbing up to about 90 by midday. The wind forecast was for westerly winds of some significant speed at about 6-8 mph as a front was supposed to come through the area. So we set up the usual box course off the south shore. Well, they were wrong again - terribly.

Racing got started at about 10:30 despite the lake looking like glass. There were a few puffs coming from the east or thereabouts. We raced the first four races or so in sub-1 mph wind which required the utmost patience. Then the wind came up a little in speed, but did not hold for entire races. As noon came the wind started shifting considerably so we had some delays waiting for a decent direction for a good beat leg. While waiting for pizza and dealing with northerly winds, Kent held a few odd races that did not count in the final results. It was fun to really mix things up and watch 9 skippers have different ideas of how to round the buoys on a short race course.

During lunch, the breeze suddenly came up out of the north with some real weight behind it. Ken measured over 6mph. It really felt like this was the wind we had been promised and so Kent spent lunchtime setting up a box course off the western shore.

After lunch we all picked up our stuff and sailed over to the new course. Once we were all settled in, the wind started to drop off. We sailed about a half dozen races on that course with the wind out of the north or northwest primarily. Then we had a southeast wind spring up and we sailed out to one of the buoys on the other course. And we did at least one race with a south wind.

Once the wind became easterly again, we all packed up and moved back to the original course. We finished the regatta on the south shore and sailed until almost 3:00. The top three skippers did a great job of navigating the tricky wind conditions and we wish them good luck next weekend in representing HLMYC in the Nationals.

See you at the pond,

Don