

September 10, 2016

Hello Skippers,

The 8th Annual Rocky Mountain Regatta for the Victorias was held today. We had 10 skippers come out to compete in this green chevron event. The skies were sunny with temperatures starting in the mid-60s and rising to the low 80s by the end of the racing day. The winds were not as forecast and gave skippers quite the challenge. We got in 20 races today, utilizing the full racing schedule published in the NOR by racing until 3:00. The race results are attached and also shown below.

Before I get to the details, I want to thank the folks that helped out on this regatta. First, I'd like to thank Greg LaLiberte for acting as race director and scorekeeper and doing very fine job indeed! Thank you Greg! Thanks to Ken Hegy for bringing the table, ice, water, paper plates and napkins. And thank you Tom for handling our pizza order.

The winds were forecast out of the east so the standard box course was set up on the south shore. At the start of the regatta, the 3-6 mph winds were more out of the south which meant there were no good beating legs available. After mulling around for about 10 minutes, the wind swung a little more to the southeast and we decided to get started. True to form, the wind got quite flaky during the actual race after a good start. With the winds coming and going in speed and shifting direction frequently, we were only able to get in 7 races by lunch time.

After our pizza lunch, the wind was settling in more consistently from the east but the thermals did interrupt that quite a bit. The wind speed was about 4-5mph at the starts but rarely held steady for the whole race, dropping to 1-2mph many times. During some races the skippers sat becalmed for a few minutes waiting the next puff to get their boats moving again. Being in the right spot for the next puff was mostly luck and boats less than ten feet away were not so lucky when the isolated zephyr appeared.

Greg mixed up the racing very well. Each race was a different course, mixing in gates (even at the windward marks), single buoys for not only the windward leg but the leeward leg too, and toward the end of the day, even running half lap races (to a windward gate and back to the start line to finish). With a dedicated race director who can write down the course at the beginning of the race to remind skippers, this is possible. As mentioned before, Greg did a great job keeping the skippers engaged and running a very fair regatta.

As a last note, you will see two first places occurred on race #20. Greg was watching the finish line very closely and declared he never saw a race finish that closely. He declared it a tie, and I used the same approach the Olympics use when ties happen: two first places were awarded and the next boat that finished was awarded third.

See you at the pond,

Don