

Summary of August Buoy Races

We had wind and milder weather to greet us as the 2nd Saturday buoy series sailed under hazy August skies. Our Committee Boat saw the addition of Susan Parker, on a break from travels and not-yet-back-to-school joining Alan Clapham and Anita McClary to administer the race. Winds were light and got lighter until just *after* everyone called it a day. Typical Summer. We had a course that was an ideal length for the conditions and 4 boats in each division and all races were course #1. The Open Fleet had *Showtime*, *Santé*, *Lil' Bit*, and *Yakkity Yak* on the slate while the 168s had *Always Saturday*-Gary Davis on board to fully crew the boat, *Lakota*, *Seahawk*, and *Tranquillity Base*.

My **Open Fleet** observations are lacking except the mysterious appearance of the lifeline cover we encountered floating down the lake. It also required a reminder that a boat needs to complete a race with the same number of crew she started with. It is allowed to drag said members though probably not too far. Since this is the third lifeline failure I've heard of this year (mine happened at the dock), it probably would be prudent for everybody to see if theirs are up to spec. I also know that most everyone's spinnakers were ill behaved in the light air. And the Open fleet almost got shut down trying to beat to the windward mark in race #2. Congrats to *Santé* / Westman for a corrected (no spin *Santé*) victory margin of less than 30 second over two races and moving into a tie for first.

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The racing started with a rare General Recall for the **168s** but they quickly returned and restarted. Both *T-base* and *Lakota* had weak starts but were able to recover. There were multiple boat crossing as most boats took at least 5 tacks to stay in better breezes and reach the windward mark. *Lakota* rounded and gybed to try to get back to the breeze near shore. When the rest of the class stayed out she came back to cover. *Tranquillity* made up some ground when *Lakota* didn't cover on the beat to the finish but *Lakota* held on to win.

The second race had a very tight starting grouping with *Lakota* unable to close the door on *Tranquillity* at the Committee Boat while just a little away *Seahawk* and *Saturday* were paired as well. *Lakota* was able to squeak out from under *T-Base* and when *T-base* tacked to clear her air, *Lakota* followed. They had tight crossings again with *Saturday* and all were fairly tight as the Windward mark was cleared. *Lakota* managed to stretch a little on the run and also had a great view of the group jockeying for the leeward rounding.

Tight racing at the last mark in race #2 for the 168s-*Always Saturday* (gold sails) was able to move from last to second on the last beat.

The early race victories are still keeping the early leaders in the hunt. *Seahawk* had that 6 point win in the first race of the season and continues to doggedly hold on to second. *Tranquillity* is working hard to move try up. I also can't be more complimentary than to say how impressed I have been by Teresa Mayorga's driving on *Lakota*. It is hard to believe how little experience she has and how well she is driving the boat. She's a lot of fun to sail with as well. Now if we just had another dozen like her...

I still have *Seahawk's* track to load but here's a link to the replay of the race. Notice how much more information *Lakota* has using the free RaceQs app. Regardless, there are all kinds of analytics to show your best course (VMG) scoreboards counting tack / avg speed / best speed etc. Tracks are colored according to speed and also can show "groove". Poke around. It's as good as you see on TV watching the America's Cup!

<http://raceqs.com/members/12241/race-feed/>

If this link doesn't work try looking up my name and then from my profile, watch the race. BTW I have NO idea why I can't reset the avatar (Picture of boat) properly. I sent a note to RaceQs.

Brad King
Vice Commodore