

## WINDY FROSTBITE OPENS SEASON!!

Howdy Sailors;

Blue sky, white clouds and caps with moderate to cool conditions opened our season. Five boats with 17 sailors, 3 Capris and 2 open fleet were on the line for these fine looking conditions. *Sante'* was off first for a white sails start with *Showtime* a couple minutes back and their spinnaker ready to go at the Windmill Island rounding. Three Capris started this 13 mile pursuit race another 20 minutes later and the Frostbite was under way. This is a practice race for the K-Cup next month and is about half the course length of the full cup.

The two open fleet boats were powered up in these variable winds of about 12 to 20 and used their heavy weight to good advantage. The Capris had their hands full with wind compressed rollers up to 2 and even 3 feet at times and wind gusts into the high 20s for sustained periods had all boat rails into the water through the day. Boat speeds in the high 8's were reported by many. Woohoo!!

*Sante'* was in good form with Jim Westman and his able crew of Bruce Rogerson and Mike Green. They held the lead well into the late stages of the race before two Capris were able to fight their way up and by in conditions that required less sail rather than the more that was up. Jim Carlsen and Barry Danielli along with Kevin and Betty Hood on *Always Saturday* had been locked into a match race with Commodore Brad King and crew of Tom Malley, Teresa and Millie on *Lakota* for almost two hours as they finally fought pass *Sante'*. Don Ford on *Showtime* with Burt and Julie as crew, along with *Tranquillity* were fighting to stay on the course and finish at this point. *Tranquillity* with only a crew of 3, Bob, Val and John Coovert found their number 3 below and raised that. The rounding at pink house in high winds and water was a challenge for all and had *Showtime* showing a few more battle scars before she made it around. This rounding will be changed to a starboard rounding for all future races in these conditions.

The lead boat called for a shortened course and after almost 3 hours of match racing in full on conditions, Barry Danielli and his intrepid crew had held off *Lakota* with probably never much more than a minute between them and at times only a handful of seconds. Congratulations to *Always Saturday* and crew for taking the opening race and a tip of the hat to our Commodore and his crew for keeping the heat on all the way around. *Sante'* was the first open fleet boat in, then *Showtime* and *Tranquillity* finishing. The conditions challenged all boats and crews and all who did this race can be proud of just finishing!!

We continue to struggle to set up a course and run these races as a small club with a minimum of volunteers. We are unable to put a committee boat on the water for all races and have decided to only crew up the committee boat for the buoy races. Please be patient with the courses and starting lines that we set up using the buoys that are on the lake in these long races. We know we have a great lake for racing in all kinds of conditions and we have plenty of water this year. See you at the first Buoy race on April 13!

