

Howdy Sailors;

Two buoy races were held in each fleet this weekend. The temps. were high 90s to 100, with light to moderate breeze. Yes, it was hot on the lake, however we still had 5 boats in the ODR, (one design racing), fleet and the race minimum of two boats in the Open fleet. The committee boat was manned by Alan Clapham and Suzy Britz. We are grateful to both of them for continuing to donate their time and energy to keeping the racers on the water racing. Thank you Alan and Suzy for all your volunteer efforts in the clubs racing program.

The season is still young, since only 2 to 3 races had been held. This gave racers the chance to get on the scoreboard who had missed races early in the season. Lil Bit with owner Chet Britz took advantage and is now tied on points for 3rd with Philip Frankls Santana 525. Julie Richardson on Showtime was on fire and drove her crew across the finish line twice into first place, giving them the overall lead in the Open fleet. There was a little excitement in the second race as one boat, Showtime was over early and a restart was done.

The ODR boats are sailing more competitively than ever and are match racing each around the course. The first race saw Val on Tranquility take the start at the committee boat at full speed, she never looked back and finished first. Bob Robinson in the pit and Betty Hood looked back a lot at, In The Red, who kept the pressure on all around the course, finishing all of 14 seconds back. Laura did a fine job hanging on and threatening to pass all the way around with Paul Samberg, Jim Carlsen and Burt Tunzi pushing their boat as fast as possible. Just behind them for third were Barry Danieli and his coming on strong crew of Kevin Hood and John Diderich. Their boat, Blew By You, is just coming up to speed this year and their blazing speed was obvious to the boats trying to tactically defend against these hot shots. Lake winds are fickle however and they were not able to take full advantage of their speed. They have moved up the leaderboard a notch and we will be seeing a lot more of this speedster.

The second race was led down the course by a rejuvenated Always Saturday. Having struggled on the first race, they were in gear on the first leg and were first around the windward mark, followed closely by T Base, In The Red and Blew By You. Blew By You moved into a close match racing struggle with Saturday, while, In The Red, attacked and passed T Base on this downwind leg. Going into the gate at the leeward rounding, in close proximity were 4 ODR boats seconds apart. The wind and wave gods were in a humorous mood and threw a monkey wrench into the racing. One of the two buoys making up the gate had drifted downwind, the perspective on many boats showed one buoy almost behind the other. There was no longer an obvious rounding at the gate and boats went through the gates in two to three directions. Coming out of this rounding was, In The Red, leading T Base and then Always Saturday and Blew By You. Jim Carlsen trimming on Red was heading for the barn and uncatchable. T Base coasted in second and then excitement at the line as Blew starboarded Saturday on the line for the win.

The humor of the wind and wave gods was lost on the finishers as discussion ensued about who if anyone had gone through the gates properly. This is one of the big challenges facing a small club, how do you handle a gate that has drifted. We do not have any chase boats like the big clubs and are marks are set and left. There is also no referee on location to watch these roundings which are too far away for the Committee boat to see. We have had buoys drift in the past, but none that seemed to affect the racers so strongly by changing finishing positions. We are trying to stay away from throwing red flags and getting caught up in controversy by talking these situations through afterwards. It does appear that Always Saturday may have been caught out by events beyond control and redress should be given under the Racing Rules of Sailing 62.1a . No other boats scores are changed under A6.2 and A10 gives

a calculation formula based on the total of all previous finishes divided by the number of races. This is not a perfect solution but one that is provided for in the rule book. These rules will give an additional 1.3 points to Saturday. If you do not have a book, you can access the Racing Rules of Sailing on the internet and follow the rules that were used to determine redress. I want to remind all racers that we are doing the best we can to hold fun, challenging, close racing in a way that keeps us all good friends and great competitors. Please be patient with what we are doing and enjoy the benefits of what we are putting on. There is a great deal of volunteer effort going into these events. Gates have become a significant part of exciting racing and we want to continue their use in spite of the challenges we have had. The gate can be expanded two to three times the size that it was and it will be very unlikely that a buoy can drift far enough to get behind the other one. Thank you for your patience while I have been trying to sort this out. Our goal of great racing is a moving target that we continue to improve as we go forward.

Bob Robinson

Race Director/ Vice Comm