May 12 Buoy Races

Howdy Sailors;

The first buoy race of the season got underway with 2 races.  We were very happy to get 4 open fleet boats on the starting line and 5 Capri 25s, for a total of 9 boats and about 30 sailors. The winds were variable and light with temperature in the 70 to 80 region. While the blue sky and white cumulus clouds made it a beautiful day on the lake, the light winds made for a brutally challenging day. The committee boat was run by Alan Clapham and assisted by Anita McClary and Ilona Robinson.

The open fleet saw Jim Westman on *Sante'* win the first race with a family oriented crew and then retire. This race had taken almost two hours. *Schiksa* with Philip Frankl, hung in there for a second race with Don Ford on *Showtime*, but in the end dropped out and *Showtime* was awarded the win. John Reinhart on *Yakkity Yak* made up the fourth boat in the fleet. All boats agreed with each other not to fly a spinnaker and were given 12 seconds a mile to add to their handicap. Don and Julie on *Showtime* were rewarded for their tenacity and have taken the first place spot in their fleet with *Sante'* two points back in second.

The Capri 25s ran two races with all 5 boats in each race. The light, shifty winds caused all kinds of challenges, forcing the late finishing boat to retire within the 20 minute window after the last boat before them finished. *Lakota* had retired early on leaving just 3 of the boats to finish the first race. *In the Red* and *Tranquillity* fared the best taking the left side of the course, while the other boats behind tacked to the right side to avoid bad air. The right side died and it turned into a match race for Laura and Val on their Capris. At the leeward mark, *T Base* had a quick set and edged by *In the Red* after chasing since before the windward rounding to win the first race.

Race 2 caught everyone by surprise and the light winds kept all boats from reaching the start line by the horn. *T Base* coasted over first with *Always Saturday* and *Lakota* close. The winds on the reversed course now favored the left side going to the gate, now the windward rounding. *Always Saturday* with their new Elliot Patterson jib were now locked into a tight match race with *T Base*. *Lakota* could not quite cross the gap but was in much better shape than *Blew by You* and *In the* *Red*. The last leg saw a tacking duel when *Saturday* slipped into the lead at the leeward rounding and Tranquillity poured on the pressure to briefly take the lead only to lose it as *Saturday* threw one last tack at the diagonal finish line and got *Tranquillity* by a second. Great tactics on *Saturday* and they were rewarded with the win! Val Adase on *Tranquillity* is one point ahead of John Coovert’s *Always Saturday*, with *In the Red’s* new crew of Paul Samberg, Bert, Laura and Jim Carlsen in the third spot. Many boats have new crews and we will see the racing tighten up as the crews learn to work together. The season is very young and there is plenty of time to get on track for the boats that struggled in both fleets.

We were all anxious to kick the buoy racing season off and we did. More reliable winds and any wind at times, would have been great, but it is lake sailing and you take what you get!!

 Bob Robinson, Race Director/Vice Commodore