

Howdy Sailors;

The smoke is finally starting to clear up and we are getting back to our regular racing schedule. We had blue sky, 10 to 12 mph winds, temps in the high 80s, 8 boats in 2 fleets and about 25 sailors on the water. The committee boat was crewed by Anita and Alan with Bob assisting on setting the course Buoy up. Val on *Tranquility* came by and picked me up and the first race was off at 1:00 sharp.

The open fleet start had Jim Westman and Eric on *Sante'* and Chet Britz on *Lil' Bit* across the starting line in front of *Showtime*. Don Ford and Julie on *Showtime* went to work steadily pulling back the lead boats and by the finish they had worked back into first place. *Lil' Bit* was off the pace today and dropped out of both races with a DNF. Chet and Mike Green were double handing as were the other two boats, so we had a double handed fleet of 3 boats on the lake. The second race saw a much tighter start with all 3 boats fighting to be first across the line. *Showtime* with Julie on the helm and Don running around all over the boat were able to win this race also and are carrying a strong lead of 6 points into the final Buoy race of the season. *Showtime* has not missed any races this year and is showing what a consistent steady racing program can achieve. To win races you have to be there participating and they have been every time.

The ODR fleet hit the line for their start with *Tranquillity Base* getting a great Committee boat end start for their one high point of the day. Soon after the start *T Base* miscalculated a port/starboard crossing with *Always Saturday* and had to do a penalty turn. Alert work by TJ at the helm of *Saturday* and John Coovert in the pit helped avoid a collision by crash tacking. It was entirely my fault and a reminder to all of us how quickly things can go South. Meanwhile the front runners were off to the races and extending their lead. *Lakota* with Brad in the pit and Teresa at the helm were setting the pace for this race with *Blew By You* going over to highway 20 after the rounding. John Diederich working on the foredeck of *Blew* with Kevin Hood in the pit was pacing *Lakota* on the opposite side of the lake with Tom Malley on foredeck, Brad King cutting and setting and Burt filling in where ever needed. *In the Red* rounded next with Paul Samberg and Matt on the foredeck getting the spinnaker launched and quickly giving chase to *Lakota*, with *T Base* hot on their heels. *Lakota* got to the leeward gate first and maintained their lead to the finish with *Blew* hounding them to the line. Jim Carlsen on the tiller of *Red* with Matts' father cutting and setting held off *Tranquillity* for third.

The second start saw four boats still in the race, but it was really a three boat race with *Tranquillity* going on a flyer to the far shore while the other 3 boats headed much deeper down wind. *Red*, with Jim Carlsen at the tiller was in the groove in this race and took the finish with *Lakota* fighting off Barry at the tiller of *Blew* for a 15 second differential at the line. *Red* had a special guest on board learning foredeck from Paul Samberg. Matt is the 11 year old son of Jim Bilafer and is already an accomplished dingy racer. This fleet does not permit fathers to teach sons and so Paul was asked by Jimmy to help his son learn foredeck so he can start sailing on bigger boats. The dinghy is without a foredeck. This was his first go at foredeck and they made it look pretty easy with a win in this second race. Nice work Matt and Paul!

The last ODR buoy race of the season is setting up for a competitive finish with a very narrow point spread going in. Currently *Red* is at the top of the heap and Jim Carlsen claims they are ready for any challengers. We hope everyone is there for this last ODR race of the season. See you all on Oct. 13 for the final showdown! We have somehow made a season out of a very challenging summer!!