

Howdy Sailors;

We had a very successful and enjoyable “Skippers’ Scramble” with about 20 or so sailors, 5 boats and a light to sometimes moderate variable breeze. Temps. were in the high 80s and smoke was light throughout the day. This fun and lighthearted event got off at 1 with the 3 open division boats heading out 10 minutes ahead of the 2 Capris for a 6-mile course. The first rounding by Windmill Island was the big challenge for the day with little to no breeze at this time. *Lakota* showing their return to form took the start from *Tranquility* and rounded this first mark with Jim Westman, Eric Ogram and Teresa on *Santé’* fighting them off almost all the way to the rounding at Blue Boathouse. The light to no breeze at this time saw a swim break for *Lakota* mid race, with Brad King and Dave Bennet splashing around while Mary and Burt kept an eye out for breeze. They did not see much breeze, but they did see a spinnaker on *Tranquility* slowly getting larger... swim time over and race on! *Santé’* who was wing on wing gave ground slowly and *Lakota* drifted by to take the lead just before the rounding with *T Base* hot on both their heels.

Meanwhile *Showtime* and *Lily* had finally managed to get around the Windmill Is. mark and were now crossing to Blue Boathouse. Val and Paul on their *Santana 20* with Bruce Rogerson, were in their first official race with this boat and had their hands full trying to keep it moving in the little to no breeze. *Showtime* with Don Ford and our Birthday girl Joelle, were stuck in the same conditions and these two boats were probably the most grateful when the winds filled in and they could get moving again. The light winds had taken their toll on both these boats however and they were not able to catch up with the frontrunners.

The building breeze meant game on for *Lakota* and *Tranquility*. Kevin Hood settled in at the tiller and with foredeck assistance from Christine and Bob in the pit, started short tacking up 20 and crossing tacks with *Lakota* and Burt on their helm in short order. This grew into an hour of tactical ODR racing and was great fun in the moderate breeze. The lead was exchanged a number of times with a slight edge to *T Base* at the rounding by Kono Tayhee where *Lakota* managed to get inside at the mark but could not quite move by on the set as Kevin blocked them from rolling *T Base* forcing *Lakota* to jib to Hwy. 20. Westman and Eric on *Santé’* had not thrown in the

towel and were hanging on in third place. The variable headers and lifts as the two boats raced in from opposite sides of the lake made it not at all clear who would be the winner. A final lift of a few seconds longer than the last header was just enough to give *Tranquility* a margin of a whole second across the finish line. Wow!! Tight racing for an hour after a two hour build up made for a thrilling day. The fickle winds made their choice and it seemed unfair to declare a winner after such a great back and forth in the last hour of racing.

The race was over and the party was on with a birthday girl Joelle celebrating her birthday on our race day. We got a birthday singing lesson in French that was very beautiful ... a trained singing voice is a beautiful thing to hear. We all joined in later with our well-known English version of Happy Birthday and the party was on. A great big watermelon helped us all cool off and a lot of great food followed. A special veggie dish from our gourmet cook Peggy King, along with many other dishes, fruit salads, fresh organic garden veggies in a horn of plenty beautiful basket, (grown by Joelle), pineapple upside down cake, a glass of wine, a thirst-quenching cold brew and we have pulled off another simple but fun BBQ/Potluck event.



*Lakota and Tranquility at the finish line*