

3 ISLAND FIASCO

Like all fiascos, there is a certain level of chaos and yours truly probably didn't help things much. I wasn't sure about launching a Committee Boat, OR setting buoys until well into the morning of the race. Indeed, in spite of running this race for years now, I didn't recall that it is a pursuit race and needed start times for the fleet. With the help of the skippers and those more mathematically able. I managed to cobble together a race utilizing OSIRs mark as the Eastern roundings thus saving miles of boating to set and retrieve them. We set out for the now-typical start line just off of Windflower Point hoping for a Noon gun. Out on the course this day were **Yakkity Yak, Lil' Bit, Presto!, Showtime, and Santé**. Also out but not in contention for the trophy were three 168s: **Lakota II, Always Saturday, and Blew By You**. It should be said that there was a lot of crew available, something we have been striving for in our long races AND, more importantly, the Open Fleet had well crewed boats in their quest for the podium. Missing on the course, for the first 45 minutes after everyone had staged, was the wind. We finally got a hint of breeze from the typical W / NW, contrary to all forecasts. As it reached the starting area, we elected to get sailing and Santé (sans spinnaker) being the scratch boat, got out in front. The next group start two minutes behind and all but Presto! elected to go directly to Rattlesnake Isle (actually our OSIRs Pink House mark) while the Santana gathered in Anderson Island as her first rounding.

The 168s always get some advantage in the delay and this day, the wind filled down lake and the group elected very late in the sequence to set chutes and get Monitor Island off the list. Blew By You only had one OSIRs regular and somehow missed the true mark was in reality Pirates Cove. Saturday and Lakota traded leads for the rest of the day, finishing very close together. Strategy and the generally light air allowed the Santana 20 to break away from the rest of the Open Fleet and **Presto! won the race.**

Thanks to Suzie Britz and Anita McClary for being "on call" in case we did need a Committee. Thanks too, to John Coover for helping me retrieve the start / finish line buoys in a power boat instead of waiting for the last competitor to clear the line and picking them up in a sail boat. Our next contest will be the June Buoys 6/10/17. Fridays are close to being ideal for an evening sail. Check in with each other and let's play!!

Brad King
Vice Commodore

Victory to Presto!



Happy faces on Always Saturday. Winner Presto! in distance

