

Howdy Sailors;

The buoy season for 2018 has come to an end! It was quite a year and went down to the final race of the season for all 3 podium place finishers in the, one design racing, "ODR", fleet. The open fleet was won hands down by *Showtime* with Julie Richardson putting in another great season at the helm. Julie and her skipper Don Ford have become the team to beat in this division. Different crew members have filled in with them and they have even been double handing some. Jim Westman on *Sante'* was a strong second place for the year in this division with Chet Britz on *Lil' Bit* in third. The results were final before the race even started as *Showtime* was the only boat to sail in the open fleet this Saturday... so they just took a couple of victory laps with their good competitor Jim Westman aboard.

The winds were variable and light to moderate from the NE blowing about 4 - 8 mph. with the temp. in the high 70s for most of the race day. The first start in the ODR fleet saw *Tranquility* take this start with *Red* just below and *Blew* coming across the line a little late and then tacking to the Hwy. 20 side. Barry Danieli and crew of Kevin and Betty Hood with John Diderich on foredeck, had made the right choice on *Blew* and soon moved back into contention, between Val on *Tranquillity* and Jim Carlsen on *Red*. The rounding was in this order at the windward mark with both *Red* and *Blue* attacking *Tranquillity* in the lead all the way to the leeward gate. *Tranquility* barely held them off of her transom and then took control on the last leg to tie the season with *Red*. *Blew* had now moved into a tie for third with *Lakota* by finishing second in this race and was also less than one point ahead of *Always Saturday*. *Saturday* and *Lakota* were both sailing without their regular season crews and were struggling to find their pace. The final race of the season was now for all 3 podium spots among 5 different boats.

A very aggressive start saw 3 boats over the line early and a general restart was called. The second start was again very aggressive with *Red* being over and *Blew* spinning a doughnut on the starting line. The tight start at the Committee boat end forced *Tranquility* to the pin end, but they were at full speed here and ready to defend against whoever made it through the traffic jam. Amazingly *Blew* had spun a 360 and come blasting across the start line to take a slight lead. *Red* had to go around the ends to start again as their bow was over early. A quick tack to Hwy 20 paid big dividends in reeling back the lead boats and *Red* was right back into it at the windward rounding. This rounding saw *Blew* ahead with *Tranquility* right behind and *Red* on their transom again. A quick jibe by *Tranquility* to Hwy. 20 and *Blew* who was now following them with *Blew* watching for her opening. *Blew* went fast and high forcing *Tranquility* to try to out run them while *Red's* crew of Burt, Andre, Jim and Laura drove deep. The defense by Christine and Bob sharing foredeck against *Red*, let *Blew* slip by before the gate rounding. This last leg saw *Blue* set the pace with Christine, Bob and Val covering *Red* to the finish. *Blew* finished first to complete a very strong second half of the season, giving them 3rd overall. *Blew* had made a determined effort to beat *Tranquility*, but in the end could not quite pull it off and their finish in third gave *Tranquility* the season by one point.

Congratulations go out to all racers. A special thank you also to Betty Hood, Christine, Paul Samberg, Philip Frankl, and all their skippers who were willing to exchange crew to get everyone out on the water with a full crew for this last race. This level of racing would not happen without a committee boat and its crew. Alan Clapham has taken on the committee boat position over the last few years and has kept us racing with the assistance of numerous crew, especially Anita McClary and Suzy and Chet Britz, and Val Adase and crew filling in when Alan was out of town. Thank you to all of you who have done so much to make this season possible.

Bob Robinson, Race Director/Vice Commodore