

Race Notes: August 31, 2011

With a SE breeze at 8-10 we went marks to starboard so the upwind sailing came early in the race and separated the boats by their abilities to windward.

In the first start we saw Nick, Tom and Don tightly packed and charging the line, Jim gybed in from windward and was just late to the group. Nick was leeward and ahead at full speed, too full as he was over early by about 1/3 of his boat length. (We did sound a horn, but with the wind blowing onshore, it was unlikely he could hear). From there progressed an upwind battle - maybe I exaggerate - it was a close fetch. But it was all about climbing to windward. Tom seemed to be having trouble staying up where he usually finds himself, come to realize later that they were sailing upwind with their boom topping lift still set - aargh! Don climbed to an early commanding lead to get the gun and 1st by several minutes. Jim overcame his late start and finished 2nd, Tom finished 3rd.

In the second start - Wow! There was Peter doing a Vanderbilt start (sail away from the line turn around and sail back for a timed start) and hit the line full and by. The big surprise was Larry, who as a self confessed novice to the game, has had trouble being even in the vicinity of the starts all year ... well, there he is sails sheeted home and roaring in just to weather of Peter's rail and not even half a boat length behind. Talk about a learning curve. Not exciting enough? Where there should be no more room with Peter, Larry and the mark, there is Mike, barging "just a little" so that we had three boats rail to rail ripping at the start. Bob and the Birch Bunch, including third generation four year old granddaughter, were right there and George, well it was a conundrum why they decided to take an excursion down river with two minutes to their start. Could not tell from the dock, but Larry let Mike slip in when he would have been within his rights to shut him out. What happens to nice guys? Larry got trampled, getting bad air from almost everyone and had to take a clearing tack - not a bad idea, but a bad deal on a fetch.

George made up his time from his excursion to finish 1st and....allllmost save his time on Peter. Peter took first by 16 corrected seconds. George was second and Mike 3rd.

Hard to believe another year of Wednesday Night sailing has passed. The second series results can be found on the last tab of the attached spreadsheet. In the first start it was Don 1st, Tom K 2nd, and Nick 3rd. In the second start, Peter was 1st and get this - a three way tie for second Bob, Mike and Brad, George, only 1 point away from making it a four way tie.

Thanks so much to the folks who stood their watch on the dock, chief cannoneer and line judge Al LeChard, timekeeper and commentator Syd LeChard and time recorder - she can make the back of an envelope look official Adrienne Murphy.

Before the guns of GPBC go silent for another year, remember, family regatta on Sept 18, first gun at 1:00 for a 1:10 start. Course will be dependent on the breeze - long, to #7, regular, to #5 or short, to #5, but without the second pass.

Jay Kaiser, Race Committee