Summer Series Race 6

Ida had Robin Wallace as PRO, Dan Eardley, Phyllis Detwiler, Alyce Wright, Wendy Durodugan and three crew from boat 222. Limerock had Bill O’Hanley and two crew from 222, Jed Pearsall and Jonathan Chapman. Wind was 215 to 210 variable 9 knots; tide was incoming and strong throughout the race. Ida set up near Victor for the start. The course was set as Tango to port Victor to port, twice around, a nominal 6 mile course. The start was clean with no over earlies. More than half of the boats went left, some went up the middle and a few went hard right. The wind had 5 degree shifts left and right with more right as the boats got closer to the bridge and beyond, always coming back to 210. Due to the incoming tide the racers had to find a lay line higher than the mark, in order to get past. 74 was first around with 121 just behind. Those that chose the left seemed to have made the right choice. An incoming tug barge arrived at the center span, just as the Shields were approaching the bridge and the mark, complicating the racers options slightly.

The wind had some right hand swings during the downwind leg, enough to give thought to a change of course to EP 13. As the boats got closer to Victor the wind came back to 210, negating a change of course. 121 passed the leeward mark inside and in front of 74 and never lost the lead after that. Once again most of the boats chose the left side of the course.

Once the fleet started to round the 2nd windward mark, the time frame of the overall race was a concern since the time was 1900 and sunset was at 2000. Ida set up a finish line close to Victor, so that the boats had enough time to get down wind and finish. All but one of the boats finished within the time limit set by the SI. A large Wind Farm Support boat was nearing Victor as the fleet rounded the last mark, making the rounding a little complicated. Robin set up the finish Southwest of Victor to keep the boats clear of the behemoth.

The sun was setting and the wind was diminishing and several of the boats required a tow to the mooring fields.

One more race for the summer series next week, then on to the Fall Series North of the bridge.