

FALL SERIES

SHIELDS FLEET 9 SEPTEMBER 6

The weather forecast was challenging all day. Rain was expected from morning to evening. The rain occurred heavy in the morning, with thunder and lightning over the west bay, for a short period and showers here and there. Radar forecast provided some optimism after lunch with a break after 4 pm. That is exactly what happened. A break just long enough to get in a race. Today was the day the races shifted back to south of the bridge as well as starting 30 minutes earlier due to the shorter days. Our shields fleet volunteers did not show up, which left us shorthanded, enough where we could not use a second rib. Last week, there was no wind. There was no start, leaving the signal boat with flags AP over A. The hope was to get two races in today. The forecast would prevent that.

Once on the water, the wind was from 195 to 205 at 10 to 12. Ida set up on the Jamestown side close to SRM 3, which is now labeled SRM –C. The wind lined up with SRM 3- R and SRM 4.

Ida had Robin Wallace as PRO, Dan Eardley as timer and Mike Murray as driver with Betsy Reed and Ross Cann. Capt. Hosea had Socrates Vavolotis as driver, Phyllis Detwiler and I as crew.

The only commercial traffic was a car carrier that was scheduled to be at the bridge at 1630. The ship was late and went under the bridge shortly after the race start. The starting line was well west of the channel and due to the flood tide; the fleet went towards Jamestown to escape the current.

The course chosen was SRM 4 to port to SRM 3 to port, once around, approximately 4.6 miles, with the first leg at 2.2 miles. 12 boats on the line. The line was 200 yards.

The start had no over earlyies. The wind was 8 to 9 at 200. The wind began to diminish soon after the start. Robin had the mark boat present a Charlie flag with a course change to R to port at the windward leg. The finish was close to the Fort Adams shoreline north of SRM 4 by about 500 yards due to a slight wind shift and the incoming current. The race length was approximately 3.6 miles.

The current made for a very challenging race. Most of the leaders at the windward mark did not maintain their positions, some falling back significantly.

Bill O'Hanley