

FALL SERIES

SHIELDS FLEET 9 SEPTEMBER 13

Race 4 and Race 5

Bill O'Hanley was PRO, Mike Murray drove Ida and reporting, Dan Eardly did timing, Betsy Reed did reporting and flags. Socrates drove Capt. Hosea and dropped the Pin and Finish marks. Phyllis Detwhiler drove Limreock and dropped the windward mark. Fleet #33 volunteers helped out on mark boats.

Ida dropped anchor south of Race mark #6. The wind directions was a solid 215 to 225 at 10 to 12 knots. The wind at the windward end was 200 to 225 10 to 12 eventually changing to 215 to 220. There were 16 boats checked in, 222 had halyard problems and left the starting area. The tide was going out, with high tide at 1530. We dropped an orange Tet at 1 nm at a direction of 320. 15 Boats started without incident.

7 boats went to the left at the start with the remaining going right. All of the boats hugged the shore on the second leg back to 6. All boats finished in approximately 40 minutes allowing time to start a second race. Boat 217 protested 253.

The tide caused havoc with the finish mark since it was opposite of the wind direction. We repositioned the starting pin for the second race, prior to the finish of the first. By the time the first race was over the tide effected the mark moving it south. At that time the wind shifted about to 10 to 15 degrees to the right making the starting pin perfect for the next race, slightly favored. Capt. Hosea pulled the finish mark. Limerock struggled getting the windward mark up, with the anchor stuck.

We dropped the second repeater flag and began the starting sequence for the second race. Multiple boats were over early with 15 seconds left in the count. The tide and remaining boats either kept them from coming back enough or prevented them from getting back to clear the line. Boat 14, 169, 217 and 253 were over. A few minutes after the fleet start boat 222 appeared from the northern tip of Goat after repairing their halyard and started the race. Capt. Hosea then pulled the starting pin.

There was no place to hide from the current on the second leg back to 6. The fleet was evenly split with port and starboard tacks under spinnakers. 14 called RC on Chnl 79 to retire due to the over early and the sun setting at 1857. The wind increased to 12 to 13 knots. The second race finished in 35 minutes with no protests.

The race next week does not count for the series since Shields Nationals is being held in Mason Island CT (near Fishers Island), next week.

Bill O'Hanley