

FALL SERIES

SHIELDS FLEET 9 SEPTEMBER 27

Little to no wind at 3:30pm at the docks, although there was a small craft warning at the club flag pole for the high surf outside the bay due to Maria off the Carolina coast. Sailflow had a predicted southeast wind, and the boats on moorings were proving that to be the case. Just prior to the race committee boats pulling away from the docks the flags started to wave with the 2 to 5 knot breeze that was filling in.

Dr. Wallace was PRO with Dan Eardley as driver and timer. John Bagwell, Betsey Reed along with David Bush Brown of Shields boat 121 were also on the signal boat. Captain Hosea had Socrates as driver with a 121 volunteer manning the windward mark and finish pin. Limerock had Phyllis Detwiler as driver with Ross Cann as mentor and a 121 volunteer at the Leeward mark and starting pin.

Ida dropped anchor between Rose and Goat about a ¼ mile south of the bridge. The wind was 150 to 155. The race course was Y to port and 6 to port once around with an upwind finish close to Y. There were 14 boats on the line. Just before the starting pin was to be set, there was a 20 degree shift to the left. Dr. Wallace lifted anchor and reset Ida in a better location in the event the wind shifted again. The wind came back to 150-155. The tide was ebbing and the wind was very light, but just enough to race.

Just after the start the fog came in preventing the signal boat from seeing the windward mark, visibility was about half mile and less at times. 166 went around mark Y first with 254 several boat lengths behind. The fleet was well spread out at the first rounding with over 1000 feet between first and last. Heavy fog allowed a visual of the fleet but finding the marks required a compass.

As the fleet sailed down wind, the fog started to lift. By the time the fleet rounded the leeward mark 6, the fog had lifted providing about a mile visibility. 254 rounded 6 in the lead. The wind had shifted about 20 degrees to the left making the leg to the finish not quite a beam reach. You could tell that there was different pressure in various places when looking at the water surface. Wind was still very light but picking up slightly. Dr. Wallace had the crew of Ida drop anchor about 1000 feet north of Y for the finish. 254 got the bullet.

Bill O'Hanley