

J/24 RACE

MAY 11

We were able to run two races the first night race committee for J24 Fleet 50. There were 13 boats racing. Both races were set up as windward leeward courses. The race committee took three boats out. Ida was the signal, Captain Hosea was the pin boat, and Lime Rock was the mark boat. Lime Rock came out as part of the race committee mark boat mentoring program. Bill O'Hanley's set up the program to mentor potential mark boat crews and to train them on the procedures that are used by our mark boats. At first, Bill planned to observe Captain Hosea which is our usual mark boat crew but he gladly agreed to place and pull marks. We kept both mark boats busy all night.

The evening started out with the wind at 120 degrees and Ida anchored south of Rose Island near the center of Goat Island. Given the wind and Ida's position, the crew on Lime Rock was asked to deploy a windward mark and a leeward mark. The crew on Captain Hosea handled the marks for the starting line and the finish line. However, as we were waiting for the boats to complete the downwind leg of the first race, we noticed that the finish mark was floating off to the north. Lime Rock was closer to the mark so its crew was asked to pick up the finish mark, add more line to its anchor line, and redeploy the mark. They were able to do this while most of the fleet was bearing down on them on their downwind leg. We also had a few issues with marks snagged on the bottom which Lime Rock helped retrieve. The crew on the mark boat mentoring boat got lots of work!

The starting line a course for the first race was very square to the wind. A square line helps get a good start and the fleet was spread across the line. By the time the second race was started, the wind began to shift back and forth. It was a close call but we decided to start the second race with the existing course. By the time the second race started, Ida was favored for the start and most of the fleet tried to squeeze into the space close to Ida. As a result we had a general recall. We then took time to change the course and starting line. Mark "Y" became the new windward mark and we planned on deploying a leeward mark. Once the line was changed we were able to get the race off. However, the wind continued to shift after the race started and more importantly, began to drop. Hence, Ida up anchored and moved up to the windward mark to shorten the race. It was a one leg race to the windward mark.

The mark boat mentoring program had a very successful start. It began with an on the dock review of the mark boat equipment (e.g., GPS) and expectations for the mark boat. The work put in by Lime Rock's crew helped reinforce the on the dock overview. The mark boat crews from Captain Hosea and Lime Rock worked together and helped each other throughout the evening.