

SPRING SERIES

SHIELDS FLEET 9

Great start to the 2017 season. Air temperature was in the 50's, water temperature was in the high 40's. The sun was out and the wind was from the south southwest. We checked the special race marks to confirm that they were in the water. Special race mark 1 was now labeled A. SRM 8 was labeled B. SRM 3 was labeled C. SRM Z did not change. Amendments will be made to the SI for these changes. Robin Wallace is the PRO with Dan Eardley as driver, timer. Alyce Wright, David Brown, Betsy Reed and Shields 143 volunteer Kim Roberts rounded out the committee boat crew. Socrates Vavalotis with Zach from boat 143 were on Captain Hosea. I was on Limerock with David Gray, Phyllis Detwiler and Collin, also from boat 143.

Wind readings had an S shape to them as the wind followed the channel from Castle Hill. Out by Hammersmith Farm the wind was 235 degree. Closer to the entrance to the harbor the wind was 220 to 225. Between Rose Island and Goat Island the wind was 240. Robin set up the starting line just east of Nav #6 for a 240 wind direction. The course was set as #80, Q to port 6 to port, twice around. The tide was flooding with high tide at 2030. It was a full moon, yet the flood was less than expected, but still strong. The wind was consistent for the start with little variance. The incoming tide was expected to keep the fleet of 10 boats back. 59 got pushed over the line with no room to get back and was called over early at the start. 9 boats went left and after clearing, 59 went right.

Q was 1.1 nm from the start and it took 30 minutes for the first boat to round the windward mark. The wind did not change for the first windward leeward. The fleet began to spread out on the downward leg, with several jibes.

The second leg was much like the first, both up and back. 253 rounded the second windward mark first. Less than halfway back to Nav 6, the wind shifted 30 degrees to the left. Ida was set up for the finish half way between Q and 6 in a straight line. With the wind shift, Robin had Ida pulled up its anchor and headed east setting up the new finish line in time to finish the first race. 254 got the bubble with a fair spread between second place 217 and third place 253.

Bill O'Hanley