

SPRING SERIES

SHIELDS FLEET 9 MAY 17

Beautiful day on the water, breezy. Air temperature was in the high 60's at the dock and low 60's on the water., water temperature was still chilly. The sun was out and the wind was from the southwest 15 to 20mph. Gusts at the dock office did not go above 25, wind diminished slightly as we got out on the water. Newport Yacht Club set up a start line to our north once we established our starting area, south of green Nav 3. Robin Wallace was PRO with Dan Eardley as driver, timer. David Brown, Betsy Reed and two visiting guests of Ted Slee, Anne and Ruth made the committee boat crew. Socrates Vavalotis and Andy Burton from boat 101 were on Captain Hosea. I was on Limerock with, Phyllis Detwiler drove and Dwight Escalera from boat 101, also a new member to ILYC. I was fortunate to learn that Dwight is experienced enough to be a fine mark boat driver in the near future.

Wind readings were 225 to 230 between the Fort and Clingstone as well as off Rose Island. Robin set up the starting line just south of Mark 6 for a 230 wind direction. The course was set as #63, SRM 4 to port 6 to port, twice around. The tide was ebbing with low tide at 1817. The tide did not pose a problem with the start. The wind was consistent for the start with little variance between 225 and 230. Capt. Hosea followed the fleet to the windward mark. Limerock maintained position at Mark 6. The wind did not change for the first windward but there were signs of left shifts as the fleet headed to the leeward mark. Robin notified Capt. Hosea of a possible course change at SRM4 to S. Capt. Hosea provided the signal boat the time frame when the fleet would be back to SRM4. Limerock provide wind readings south of 6 about 1/4 mile, confirming that the wind was shifting left to 220. Ida up anchored and Dan positioned the signal boat between SRM 4 and S. Robin confirmed the change of course to Capt. Hosea, then announced the change of course on the VHF fleet channel 79.

The committee boat dropped anchor about a 1/4 mile south of S. 217 passed Ida heading to S ahead of the Fleet and maintained that lead until the finish for the gun with 226 in second and 254 in third places.

Bill O'Hanley