

SPRING SERIES

SHIELDS FLEET 9 JUNE 14

A little cooler than the last few days. Still cool on the water regardless. Wind 8-12 knots southeast. We were able to get two short races in today, with the second race shorter than the first.

Air temperature was in the high 70's at the dock. Water temperature getting a little warmer at 62. The sun was out and the wind was from the southeast 8 to 12 mph. Newport Yacht Club set up their start line between Rose and Goat. We established our starting area, near SRM 3 (C). Robin Wallace was PRO with Dan Eardley as driver, timer, Betsy Reed and the volunteers from the Shields Fleet #158 Ron Oard's crew. Socrates Vavalotis, David Gray and Ron Oard were on Captain Hosea. Socrates was the mark boat driver and handled the starts and finishes. Phyllis Detwiler drove Limerock with Alyce Wright as crew and handled the windward marks.

Wind readings from the center of the channel were variable from 165 to 180 between the Fort and Clingstone, more consistent to 190 close to Jamestown. Robin set up the starting line just south of SRM 3 for a course axis of 190 wind direction. The course was set as R to port, SRM 3 to port, once around. The tide was flooding at 17:30.

There was an individual recall at the start, boat 17, which cleared. Once the fleet of 15 boats started, Limerock was sent to Mark R for wind readings, Capt. Hosea stayed near Ida to set the finish mark. Wind was consistent at 185 for this race. This race was about 2.3 miles in length. Once the race was completed the wind was shifting between 170 and 185 and diminishing.

Robin had Limerock inflate a yellow Tet and set the mark for a wind direction of 170 at 0.5 NM from the start line. There was a general recall at the first attempt to start the second race. All clear for the second attempt. It was a little thick at the windward mark for the second race, but with the diminished wind all were in control if you discount the shouting by some concerned captains.

Robin up anchored at the second race start and headed to where the yellow Tet was located. All of the boats had rounded by then and the Tet was being pulled and Capt. Hosea was preparing to stream the finish mark. This race was approximately 1.8 miles in length. This was the sixth week of racing, completing the 5th and sixth race.

One more race south of the bridge for the spring series, then we are north of the bridge June 28th for the start of the Summer Series.

Bill O'Hanley