

SUMMER SERIES

SHIELDS FLEET 9 JUNE 28

As Andy Burton said, there was the sport of race committee going on out there along with the sport of sail boat racing. Robin Wallace was busy today and I was PRO with Dan Eardley as driver, timer. Betsy Reed, John Bagwell, Geoff Ewenson and the volunteer from Shields 226 boat Peter Denton, were aboard Ida; Casey from 226 was aboard Limerock with Phyllis Detwiller and Alyce Wright handling the windward mark. Seth of boat 226 was with Socrates Vavalotis was on Capt. Hosea handling the start, finish and leeward mark.

Wind readings were mostly 220 south of the bridge and also on the east side, north of the bridge. There was very little wind on the west side over by the toll booths. Looking north, beyond Gould island, the water was flat. The wind then started to fill in and eventually became a consistent 220 across the bay. We set up south of Gould island and lined up mark F and 13 and dropped anchor. As we were getting ready to set up the start line the wind shifted 100 degrees to the right, now north west. We had 12 minutes to move east to get the starting line in place before the start time. We dropped anchor about 1000 feet west of mark X. As the anchor settled the wind shifted back to 220 and seemed to be steady the tide was going out. Low tide was expected at 5:30. We had 5 minutes to establish a line. The course was to be F to port to an orange tetrahedron, twice around. We had 19 boats on the line. The line was square for 220. The starting sequence was about to have the P flag drop when the wind shifted to the left 20 degrees and the AP flag was raised. The starting pin was being effected by the outgoing tide and needed to be pulled down wind to square the line and was extended in length about 100 feet. Once the line was set we went back into starting sequence. The tide was still going out and it was close to 5:45. The tide pushed at least 10 boats over the line prior to the starting gun and a general recall was made. The wind was shifting back and forth again. The decision was made to move about 1000 feet to the west. We moved the marks and signal boat under the general recall.

The wind was now 230 at our location. The course was changed to F to port 13 to port, twice around. The line was made 800 feet long and square and the outgoing tide stopped. The race started with the fleet clear across the starting line, all of them back at least 5 or more feet at 6:15.

The wind was consistent 230 for the first rounding's. 107, 33 and 217 held the top three spots from the beginning. During the second rounding the angle of sail started to shift to the right telegraphing the wind shift. A change of course was made at F to X for the last downwind leg. The wind had shifted 15 degrees.

Ida dropped anchor halfway between X and the bridge. The wind diminish in intensity but stayed at 245. The first boat finished at 7:40. 107 got the bullet with 33 very close behind. Fortunately, there was plenty of wind for the fleet to get back to their moorings well before sunset.

There were four boats that retired throughout the race with various mechanical issues. 14 had a man over board before retiring and boat 17 required a tow in after finishing.

Bill O'Hanley