

SUMMER SERIES

SHIELDS FLEET 9 JULY 5

Beautiful day to sail. Air temperatures in the 80's, not a cloud in the sky, other than land thermals. Wind was from the South.

Robin Wallace was PRO with Dan Eardley as driver - timer. Betsy Reed, Geoff Ewenson, John Bagwill along with a member from Fleet 9 #17, all were on Ida. Phyllis Detwiler, Alyce Wright and a member from boat #17 were on Limerock and handled the windward mark and finish pin. Socrates Vavalotis and Ross Cann with 2 members of #17 were on Capt. Hosea handling the leeward gates and starting pin.

Robin set up the starting line just south of Gould Island. The wind was initially at 175 to 185 close to the bridge but 200 at Gould Island around 6 to 8 knots. The course was set as a Yellow Tet set up northeast of race mark T, just north of the bridge, to port then back to gates set up at the starting area, twice around. The tide was flooding with high tide at 1838. It was not quite a full moon, flooding was strong and continued close to 1900. No commercial traffic other than a barge with tug. There were 18 boats on the line. The tide helped to keep them back for the start with no over earlyies.

The leading positions changed a few times over the course of the race. There was a distinct lefty over by the east shore. All of the fleet went left to get out of the current, even though there seemed to more pressure towards Jamestown. . The wind became consistent at 190 to 195 once started and continued that way for three legs.

Just as the fleet was rounding the windward mark for the last time there was a wind shift to the right approximately 20 degrees. Robin established a change of course for the finish leg to 210 and positioned Ida North of the bridge, southwest of race mark 13. Shields 33 got the bubble with 181 in second and 156 in third. The tide started to affect the swing of Ida halfway through the fleet finish and pushed the stern to the west shortening up the finish line a little but not enough to be an issue.

Bill O'Hanley