

SUMMER SERIES

SHIELDS FLEET 9 AUGUST 2

Beautiful evening for racing. . A line of clouds North of Gould Island, showing dark clouds further north where the thunderstorms were located in Northwest RI moving northeast, staying clear of Narraganset bay. A solid south Breeze 200 to 210 with an occasional lefty and righty of 190 and 215. High tide at 5:05 with 16 boats on the line. The signal boat has Robin Wallace as Pro, Dan Eardley as timer, Mike Murray as driver, Betsy Reed, David Brown and John Bagwell. Lime Rock has Alice Wright, Phyllis Detwiler as driver and Ross Cann as mentor. Captain Hosea has Socrates Vavolotis as driver and the volunteers from boat 160 Doug Hancher and Robin Monk. We had too many people on signal or the other mark boat for the 3rd helper from boat 160.

The wind was consistently 200 at the starting line and then shifted to 210 when nearing the windward mark. The Race course was set from the starting line just south of the south end of Gould Island to 13 to port (EP north of the bridge), then gates as the leeward, twice around. The outgoing tide was just getting started at 5:30 before the start. Boat 203 collided with 226 at the midpoint of the starting line, causing the top section of the mast to break and fold over, just above where the stay attach to the mast. They retired but were under full sail. 203 retired as well and followed 226 back to the harbor. The warning flag went up without a sound. The signal failed, but the countdown continued to the prep with a gun. 254 and 158 were over early and they both cleared. 9 of the boats headed southeast towards CHI and five headed towards Jamestown. 156 rounded the windward mark first with 253 and 181 right behind. 181 and 253 were neck-and-neck with 156 downwind while 33 moved into fourth position with 217 in fifth

After the gate rounding 217 moved up the middle of the course, passing those in front, by catching several lefttys at 185 to 195 range. Several boats went west, but most went up the middle. For the second Windward leg Robin had Captain Hosea raised the Charlie flag with a plus sign. Robin had Limerock picked up the gates and placed a single leeward mark further to the north to extend the 4th leg.

The committee boat up anchored and set the finish line just north of 13. Bill O'Hanley