

2012 Champions Regatta

The Champions Regatta really starts on Friday for us Region 2 attendees with an informal gathering at Bessinger's BBQ for lunch. Amazingly we come from different places and in different vehicles, but magically arrive almost concurrently. After lunch, the northern skippers head to the lake for some informal racing with "Friday rules" and try to shake off the winter rust out of their transmitters. The southern skippers who have been sailing all winter long come to heckle and jest. After sailing winds down and we all have checked into our cabin or hotel, we head to the Charleston Crab House for dinner. This year was most likely one of the largest single table gathering we have had and the staff handled us in stride with a good night being had by all.

Saturday morning arrived with 15 skippers being greeted by hungry no-seems and no wind. Uncle Frank must have had some weather influence on us again this year. We managed a few morning races in the light and fluky conditions before having a Bojangle's Chicken lunch. The temperature climbed into the low 80's for the afternoon and the wind settled in a little better which allowed us to get in 10 races for the day. Jon Luscomb, Reichard Kahle, Alan Perkins, Dave Ramos, Dave Brawner and Doc Greer were all in the hunt. The throwout was not accounted for yet, but will be needed by most.

After we adjourned from the lake, we met again for a group meal at Gilligan's. The company was great, but the service was not as good as the previous night. Tony Shoaf gets the award for best hush puppy defense!

Sunday dawned much like Saturday with steam rising off the lake and no wind again. Thankfully it started to fill in nicely from the southwest giving us 7 more races for the day finishing right before the Soling skippers 12:30 start. The newcomer, Jon Luscomb showed the regulars how to close out a regatta win. Jon sailed beautifully staying out of trouble and stacking up bullets. Congrats Jon, it was fun to watch! Each skipper was given one throwout for the event and all were double digit scores. Even this was one more than Uncle Frank would allow with his motto "you don't get throwouts in real life, why should you get them on the pond?" The final finishing scores for all skippers are listed below.

	Name	Sail Number	Final Score
1.	Jon Luscomb	1045	60
2.	Reichard Kahle	67	71
3.	Alan Perkins	14	83
4.	Dave Brawner	53	85
5.	Dave Ramos	05	87
6.	Doc Greer	152	96
7.	John Bottensek	11	121
8.	Tony Shoaf	1347	121
9.	Gerry Cobby	25	125
10.	Martin Gray	1983	146
11.	Chris Kakavas	36	153
12.	Ernest Freeland	06	157
13.	Bill Ewing	888	166

14. Dave Branning	1971	166
15. Scott Vernon	880	256

Each skipper was awarded a ziplock baggie of Bojangle's Chicken and a biscuit as their trophy for the road. So after packing everything into our cars and two fun days of sailing we again gathered at Bessinger's BBQ for lunch with the newly crowned champion Jon Luscomb and his proud wife Karen, Reichard Kahle, Alan and Liz Perkins, the wedding couple Ricky and Becky, Dave Brawner and myself. Seems like there is a trend here.....

A huge round of thanks goes to all the volunteers who helped me. Nick Mortgu our acquisitions manager for the great give away bags and all the food, his wife Beth for help at the lake, Carter Cain for keeping score, Skip Hall for helping me with the finishes and the local club support from Reichard Kahle and Bill Coates.

Mark Rinehart aka Pinky