

Deception Pass State Park's Centennial Regatta (8/3-4/13)

Bob Wells Reporting

This was a very big weekend in Western Washington State with the huge annual summer party called SeaFair that features the unlimited hydro's running on Lake Washington as they have for decades. For radio sailors the big event was the Deception Pass State Park's first ever Centennial Regatta sponsored by Deception Pass MYC. Saturday we raced Soling 1M's and Sunday IOMs, which are the club's two fleets. Both days had gorgeous weather with light fluky westerlies and friendly mellow competition at the west Cranberry Lake venue. Skipper's came from various parts of Washington and the Victoria area of BC for this fun regatta with quality race management.

To swell the Soling ranks a few IOM skippers borrowed Solings from Sequim and a few Sequim skippers (aka Sequimers) also attended. The Sequim boats were generally faster, and the Deception Pass guys are rethinking their strict adherence to class rules. None of this is or was an issue as the 'Squimers' were invited with full knowledge they do not follow class spec when adding jib counterbalances and the occasional carbon mast (that is cheaper/higher performing than fabricating a wood mast). Bob Wells, Trish Bechtold, and Jean Lee on scoring assisted PRO Steve Young; and the first race started at 10:30 after course adjustments were made to accommodate the wind.

Congratulations to "rookie" Jerry Brower, who borrowed Joe Damico's (Sequim) Soling and took a convincing win. Later that weekend an Anacortes skipper purchased Joe's Soling so now at least one DPMYC Soling has a jib counterbalance.

Once again Kelly Martin dominated the IOM fleet sailing his new V8 built by Mike Eldred. Kelly has this knack of starting well and keeping his boat moving in light wind and then generally avoiding trouble. No out-of-spec questions in the tightly run IOM fleet, but then no pre-race measuring either for this fun regatta. Collie Martin, Marc Dejong, and Jean Lee scoring ably assisted PRO Vic Childs. Vic did a nice job as PRO; except for getting photographer Wayne Martin wet when entering the dinghy by stepping on the gunwale.

Julian Lee didn't just organize this regatta, but also hosted the Saturday evening party at this house following the racing. The party included a light dinner on their quintessential Pacific Northwest property, where the Lee's are privileged to live near the edge of the park with elevated southwesterly views of Bowman Bay and the Straits of Juan de Fuca. In every sense this was a feel-good event, including that entry fees contributed \$700 to the Deception Pass Foundation, of which Julian and Jean Lee are benefactors. Deception Pass State Park is over 4,134 acres and has 120 historic structures, and the Foundation helps maintain these underfunded treasures. Julian thought our donation might fund a reroof on one of the structures. Let's absolutely do this event again in another hundred years.

Regatta Committee & Valuable Assistants: Julian Lee – Organizer; Steve Young – Soling 1M PRO, Vic Childs – IOM PRO; Jean Lee – Scorekeeper; Bob Wells, Collie Martin, Trish Beshtold, and Marc Dejong – Race Officers; Julian & Jean Lee – Hosts for party; Collie Martin - registration.