

## Hornby Island Regatta, 2013, From a Participants Point of View

Graham made arrangements at the Hornby Island Diving facility for rooms and meals. There are also small cabins available at the adjacent Fords Cove General store, at reasonable prices, in the off season. We stayed at one of the cabins overlooking the water and walked to the diving facility for meals.

The sailing is from a floating breakwater. The Hornby guys ferried us from the dock to the breakwater, about 25 yards. The dock is about 18 to 20 feet wide and very stable. They even constructed a temporary toilet on the breakwater.

Friday about 1:00 PM practice started. The wind was light and fog diffused the sun to a silver cast. There was a large sea lion patrolling just outside the marks that added to the drama. We sailed for about 3 hours then retired to the diving facility for social time with coffee, beer, wine and delicious crusty chicken dinner.

Saturday we met for full hot breakfast and at 8:00 AM and at 9:00 AM headed to the dock for the short ride to the breakwater. The marks were set and racing started about 10:30 AM. The wind varied in strength, never exceeding the #1 rig. There was a break at noon for a hot soup and sandwich lunch at the dive facility, then back to the breakwater for sailing till 4:00 PM. There were 15 participants and we sailed over 20 races the first day.

We gathered at the diving facility for more social time and a roast beef dinner. Sunday, again we met for breakfast, then back to sailing. The wind Sunday was very light and the sailing wound up about 11:00 AM for pictures, then back to the diving facility for hot soup, salad and open faced roast beef & cheese sandwiches and the awards. A total of 27 races were sailed.

Lawrie Neish was the PRO and kept the races moving along, with virtually no delays. Grahams wife and Julian Laffin's mother scored the finishes and Barry Fox kept the results up to date as the regatta progressed.

The Hornby sailors are another story. Graham as well as being a talented artist, outstanding craftsman and experienced sailmaker, has sailed full size boats all his life. About 4 years ago he wanted to sail model boats, so he built a fleet of IOM's. He made the complete boats including the sails, fittings and started a model yacht club on Hornby Island.

The story, as I understand it, Graham leases or charters the boats to the other Hornby sailors for a nominal fee to cover some of the maintenance of the boats. He then taught them how to sail and race model boats.

The Hornby sailors swept the first three places, a testimony to Grahams talent as a model boat builder, teacher and coach.

Graham & Gloria were gracious hosts for the event. Grahams wife, told me Graham organized and put this regatta together himself, as well as making the trophies. You would never know that, because Graham was constantly giving credit to others for how well everything was going.

I communicated with Gary Boell, who has previously attended this event, along with Jerry Brower. Gary said the event, he attended, mirrored my account of this years event. Gary and Jerry missed this years event due to both sailing in the World's. I was the only sailor from the US.

This was the best regatta I attended this year and an event not to be missed next year. Bill Langjahr