

The Caper Regatta (9/27-28/14)

Bowman Bay in Deception Pass State Park; Fidalgo Island, Washington State

Bob Wells Reporting:

Another excellent regatta organized by the seemingly tireless Julian Lee and Deception Pass MYC. This makes four multi-day IOM regattas that Julian has organized this year at DPMYC, and all have been excellent events with high quality sailing plus fun social gatherings on both Friday and Saturday evenings. Our dominant champion, Kelly Martin, expressed it best when accepting his trophy, "Bowman Bay is my favorite place to radio sail". Many of our wives wouldn't bother to even fake an interest in radio sailing, but for them this is a favorite location for visiting and socializing. We aren't the only ones who like visiting this area. This was also the weekend for the 44th Annual Oyster Run with the rumble, bling/chrome, and leather of Harley Davidson posers - thousands of hogs everywhere. I liked the Jacket that read in Gothic script, "Sons of Arthritis".

The Bowman Bay regatta in early August featured uncanny steady westerlies both days. Now six-seven weeks later summer is over, and so are the dependable and stable west winds. Buoys were often adjusted between races and still a few legs ended up as reaches despite our efforts at aligning buoys regularly. This is also the beginning of fog season in the park, and more than once we waited for the fog to clear to race. Sunday we were in fog all day, only to have the sun burn it off when racing ended at 3:30. Sunday afternoon we canceled racing due to not being able to see the buoys. That was the least of our problems, as Vic Childs lost his WIDGET in the fog in this big bay. Then we lost Vic for forty-five minutes while he took the dinghy to hunt for his boat. The boat was rescued by some fisherman kind enough to bring it to us after they found it headed due west at the mouth of the bay at a good clip in wind. If the boat continues into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, I'm pretty sure it just ends up on a rocky CAN or US Beach. You can't make these things up.

Wind was light to occasionally drifting the whole regatta and water was flat. Looking at the line scores it looks like Kelly coasted to his win with his combination of his Eldred V8 and Jelacic Sails. Not really, as after a great beginning electronic glitches didn't allow him to complete the last three races on Saturday, and he dropped to 3rd place. After testing everything, the problem was his transmitter. On Sunday he was back on top form with his back-up Tx. Scott McConnell was very pleased to get on the podium for the first time in IOMs, and he seems pretty happy with his Jelacic Sails too. Kurt Wells had his Topiko performing well and liking the conditions. Rich Cushing continues to improve dramatically with time on the water, and all his progress came after switching to his new/used '09 Pikanto that came well sorted. Everybody had to deal with weed at times.



We had fog all day Sunday and for a few hours in the morning on Saturday. When we could no longer see the buoys we postponed racing until it cleared. You are looking south and through the cut is Deception Pass, where in this image it has a dense low fog. Bob Wells photo.

As a first time PRO I was appreciative of the DPMYC team that made my job relatively easy. After hosting lots of recent regattas they are efficient at it and obviously enjoy it. We had a few rules questions over my pay grade, and Jerry Brower provided council after I described the facts. Jerry summarized how it would properly be handled with a protest committee and what the results would likely be. Jerry cited the key phrases and rule number or interpretation number from memory in each case as part of the explanation. The whole conversation included everybody as a learning experience, and then we continued on with the racing or in one case the evening party. This was our PacNW way of educating ourselves on the subtlety of the rules without investing in the time it takes for a proper protest committee. It works for our local races.

Julian Lee announced at the awards ceremony that next year DPMYC will host two multi-day regattas: The Farrell Frozen Finger in February at Cranberry Lake and the Caper at Bowman Bay is tentatively scheduled for September 12-13, 2015. Otherwise DPMYC will continue racing two days per week year round. Winters sailing will be at Cranberry Lake and hopefully with many strong prevailing south easterlies. Bowman Bay is the summer spot with those steady westerlies we so enjoy.

Put this one down as another feel-good DPMYC regatta for everybody.

Summary of the 2014 Caper Regatta:

Class: IOM

Date: September 27-28, 2014

Location: Bowman Bay in Deception Pass State Park, Washington State

Host Club: Deception Pass Model Yacht club

Entries: 16

Winds: Max 5.4 knots, Avg. 1.6 knots.

Races Completed: 21

Scoring System: 2013 HMS

Regatta Committee & Valuable Assistants: Julian Lee – Organizer; Bob Wells – PRO; Jean Lee & Kathy Casey – Scorekeepers; Larry Stiles – measurement; Trish Bechtold, Pat Waters, Marc DeJong – Race Officers; Julian & Jean Lee – Hosts for party; Collie Martin – registration.

Position	Skipper	Sail	Hull	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Martin, Kelly	77	V-8	27.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	1.0	2.0
2	Brower, Jerry	42	Fraktal	56.0	5.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	1.0
3	McConnell, Scott	60	Pikanto	77.0	2.0	4.0	6.0	2.0	9.0	11.0	6.0	7.0	1.0	2.0	7.0
4	Damico, Joe	86	Britpop	83.0	8.0	2.0	3.0	5.0	3.0	2.0	11.0	3.0	5.0	3.0	9.0
5	Stiles, Larry	156	Cheinz	99.0	7.0	9.0	5.0	8.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	3.0	11.0	8.0
6	Wells, Kurt	25	Topiko	100.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	10.0	7.0	4.0	13.0	8.0	2.0	4.0	3.0
7	Lee, Julian	40	V8	105.0	12.0	10.0	8.0	6.0	5.0	7.0	1.0	1.0	14.0	12.0	12.0
8	Cushing, Rich	131	Pikanto	126.0	3.0	7.0	7.0	4.0	8.0	9.0	10.0	5.0	8.0	7.0	14.0
9	Critchlow, Bob	125	Cheinz	167.0	14.0	17.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	8.0	3.0	12.0	11.0	15.0	6.0
10	Pittis, Dennis	57	Goth	178.0	13.0	12.0	13.0	9.0	10.0	14.0	7.0	9.0	6.0	10.0	13.0
11	Rantala, Craig	12	Ska	180.0	10.0	8.0	15.0	12.0	14.0	13.0	9.0	14.0	9.0	6.0	11.0
12	Bechtold, Steve	10	Ericca	182.0	4.0	13.0	9.0	13.0	13.0	15.0	8.0	10.0	10.0	16.0	5.0
13	Young, Steve	73	Cheinz	193.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	8.0	4.0
14	Childs, Victor	198	Widget	200.0	11.0	11.0	14.0	17.0	12.0	12.0	5.0	2.0	12.0	13.0	10.0
15	Doherty, Mike	142	Glamrock	213.0	9.0	6.0	11.0	7.0	6.0	6.0	14.0	13.0	7.0	9.0	17.0
16	Casey, Jack	63	Victory	237.0	15.0	14.0	12.0	14.0	15.0	10.0	12.0	11.0	13.0	14.0	15.0

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