

2016 COW Regatta (4/22-24/16)

Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park on Lake Washington, in Renton, WA

Bob Wells Reporting:

Sailing was excellent and well managed, and another COW event can receive a positive report. We kicked it off with our Friday gathering party at the home of David and Donna Jensen, when Larry Stiles led the afternoon measurement verification process while we socialized. We followed with our skipper's meeting, and then we enjoyed a nice pasta dinner with the trimmings. If you come from out-of-state you pretty much have to get to Seattle Friday evening anyway, so we do all this on Friday to maximize the weekend sailing time. Seattle MYC is a social group so we also got together Saturday night at a local restaurant for a well-attended no-host dinner after sailing. A few received excused absences for Saturday's dinner because after traveling 13 hours on Friday and a long day sailing on Saturday, they were in bed early. Other's begged off to work on their boats.

Spring is a great time to visit the Pacific NW as our rhodies and azaleas are in bloom and all our plants have new growth. But we schedule the COW in the spring for more consistent wind and minimal weed, and this year the wind covered the 1-rig range. Happily we avoided extended drifters as well as our chop that can get bigger than the wind. This was our sixth annual COW, and with 29 entries from five states/provinces we almost matched our previous record of 30 in 2014. It was great to have a strong group from Cali attend again as well as our regulars from Oregon, Canada, and Idaho. We especially want to thank Baron Bremer for travelling all the way from Florida to add greatly to our event.

Extensive regatta traveling options is one of the plusses in the IOM class. Traveling with an IOM is quite doable, but it brings its own challenges. Here's another one: getting to the airline on time. We give our sympathy to our first ever Arizona entry, Barry Donaher, who inadvertently missed his flight and didn't attend. Evidently Barry was planning on traveling on Friday, but the ticket said Thursday departure... Don't you just hate it when the airline calls to tell you missed your flight?



This was taken during the Sunday drizzle, and you can see the problematic new hotel next to the big Boeing 737 hangars on the right. Maybe when the cranes are gone it won't affect our SSW wind as much as it does now? Photo Baron Bremer.

Day 1 of racing started on time and we saw lots of blustery shifty SSW wind that was generally high in the 1-rig range, which is a lot of wind for our venue. The chop was often steep, but at those times we had plenty of power to drive through it – too much power at times. We got in nine races (18 heats). The SSW wind used to be much steadier here, but a 12-story hotel is under construction and that seems to have altered our wind significantly. It has made sailing our venue much less forgiving in this wind direction. For example I never had a problem here going in irons before, but I did on Saturday. I wasn't the only one as a few locals had the same lament. No problem for the top guys though, so I have something else to work on. I did improve my

technique for getting out of irons sooner as the day progressed, and I look forward to more practice on my local venue. Saturday reminded me of sailing the north courses at 2015 Worlds in Foster City with their own blustery unpredictable wind shifts, and the buildings surrounding Central Lake are about the size of our new hotel.

Day 2 wasn't supposed to rain this hard for this long, but at least we had a northerly to play with as we got in 5 races (10 heats) to finish the regatta. Race management scrambled early because after setting the course for a southerly, the wind shifted to the north long before expected. It then stayed from the north to finish the regatta. Compared to yesterday, our Sunday wind smoothed out with less pressure and no bluster, and chop was modest too thanks to just enough of an easterly component to be offshore at times. Sailing was excellent under grey clouds with occasional light spells that never lasted very long. Concerns about going in irons are in the past.

It was surprisingly cold in addition to being damp though, so we don't expect any Cali boys will want to move here. You could recognize the Cali boys as they were bundled in foul weather gear, while many of the locals were fine with a parka and wet jeans. After lunch finally Bruce Andersen left for his long drive home, so the rain could stop and the sun could come out to start drying out our wet jeans and gear. We were all warm by closing ceremonies with the sun popping out - a picture perfect setting (but nobody took any pictures and I left the coveted but tacky Cow Bell trophies at home). Plan B is in effect, we'll present the trophies at Hood River in mid-July an R6N.

All weekend our starts were aggressive as expected for a ranking regatta. PRO Barry Fox called "general recall" almost every time on the first start sequence, but then we got all the starts off under I flag. Not once did we progress to a start under Black Flag, so maybe we were not that aggressive after all. Unfortunately the racing fleet dwindled Sunday afternoon, as a number of guys dropped late with the main problem being moisture in the Tx. They were mostly, but not all, 'Spectrum' brand with the moisture issues. Local Joe Damico helped get Canadian Martin Herbert sailing again by loaning him a Rx and Tx, just one example of the camaraderie that we enjoyed all weekend long. I later learned that Joe gave Martin his only spare, although he could have used it too. Joe said he was having such a bad regatta that he thought Martin would put his Tx to better use.

Joe left his Britpop at home and chose to sail his latest, a used Kantun SMX that he has been resolving some issues on. He has only sailed it a few times, and he had teething issues showing at the COW. I saw an Internet post wondering why all the Kantun SMX boats were clustered at the bottom of the fleet? It has become a popular boat in the SMYC fleet, and one reason is you get a contemporary hull at a great price point. I have to say our Kantun SMX skippers are faster now than with their previous older beamier generation IOMs, so they are not complaining. We all know the skipper is the key to success, and the SMX guys at the bottom of the pecking order have things to improve, but they aren't slow. If they were sailing a Britpop, their results won't change until the skipper improves, and that can take some time. Another factor is these are all relatively new boats, while the top guys generally have sailed their boat for years and they know it well and maintain it to a high standard. Ranking regatta competition demands a well-prepared boat for you to be in the game.

All hail John Ebey, our 2016 COW Regatta Champion, and his 2nd COW Championship adding to his 2014 win. This was a dominant performance where he had almost half the points of Craig Mackey in second. Mark Golison was 3rd. Jerry Brower in 4th was the highest finishing Washingtonian, as we continue our record of "nobody from Washington ever winning our annual regatta" that began in 2010. Jerry tied with Jim Wondollack on points, but on countback Jerry had two 1st finishes to Jim's one. In our 14 races, seven different skippers finished 1st with Ebey and Golison having the most with three each.

Thanks go to many volunteers sharing the load to make this event a great success. PRO/Scorekeeper Barry Fox came from Victoria, BC to provided excellent race management for his second year in a row for us. Dick Dyer is our newest SMYC member who moved here from the Portland area, and while he waits for his new boat he assisted Barry in race management both days. Jerry Brower handled the registration and our club finances again, and paid everybody's expenses promptly. He also assisted with buoys, and provided the course/heat board. Joe Damico brought his buoy boat for us as always, and he also made some extra buoys for this regatta providing more options for course setting. Larry Stiles I already noted led measurements. Ron Hornung is always quick to jump in the buoy boat or do whatever is necessary. He also brought his tent again, which so many of us huddled under on Sunday. David and Donna Jensen stepped up and hosted our Friday gathering party, and once again it was well attended and a success. Donna's new kitchen impressed all the wives and was such a pleasant perch to look out from. Downstairs is David's hangout, and his many model plane and boat toys were fun to admire. Everybody liked his IOM woody, *Race Ready*, which is just waiting for foils to continue the work. These were the main guys, and everybody pitched in to assist when needed.

As promised on the NOR, we donated the \$10/head that we collected in the entry fee (aka \$290) to Ted Flack, treasurer of IOM USA. I feel good about that, and that we provided another great COW experience. What a great class.

Summary of the 2016 COW Regatta:

Class: IOM

Date: April 22-24, 2016

Location: Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park on Lake Washington in Renton, WA

Host Club: Seattle Model Yacht Club

Number of Entries: 29

Winds: 1 – 15 knots

Races Completed: 14

Scoring System: HMS 2014, version 2.0a (6 promoted/relegated)

Race Committee & Assistants: Organizer - Bob Wells; Registration – J. Warren Brower; PRO/Scorekeeper – Barry Fox; Dick Dyer – Race Management; Measurement – Larry Stiles; Rescue Boat – Ron Hornung et al; and Dick/Donna Jensen – hosts for the Friday Gathering Party.

Video by David Jansen (A fleet starts): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzRCem3ghDE&feature=share>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BF8yG0TJaCo>

2016 COW Regatta final results:

Position	Skipper	Sail #	Club/City	Hull	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	John Ebey	193	San Rafael, CA	BritPop	27.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	6.0	6.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	5.0	5.0
2	Craig Mackey	29	Oceanside, CA	BritPop	52.0	9.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.0	5.0	9.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	7.0	2.0
3	Mark Golison	55	Long Beach, CA	V9	62.0	3.0	1.0	9.0	3.0	9.0	2.0	1.0	7.0	13.0	20.0	12.0	1.0	3.0	11.0
4	Jerry Brower	42	Lake Stevens, WA	V9	73.0	15.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	10.0	11.0	14.0	8.0	12.0	10.0	5.0	6.0	1.0	4.0
5	Jim Wondolleck	49	San Rafael, CA	BritPop	73.0	4.0	10.0	8.0	9.0	11.0	1.0	7.0	13.0	11.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	9.0	3.0
6	Gary Boell	71	Richmond, CA	Nitro	76.0	5.0	18.0	11.0	4.0	16.0	19.0	4.0	15.0	3.0	7.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	1.0
7	Morgan Dewees	98	Portland, OR	MMX	89.0	2.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	13.0	14.0	2.0	5.0	10.0	17.0	10.0	11.0	15.0	8.0
8	Dennis Rogers	43	San Diego, CA	BritPop	91.0	4.0	7.0	13.0	8.0	3.0	13.0	5.0	1.0	5.0	9.0	14.0	10.0	13.0	17.0
9	Martin Herbert	34	Saltspring Island, BC	Calypso	93.0	5.0	4.0	16.0	10.0	7.0	3.0	10.0	6.0	4.0	8.0	19.0	30.0	8.0	12.0
10	Baron Bremer	81	Jacksonville, FL	MX 14	98.2	6.0	17.0	18.0	17.0	6.0	8.0	13.2	4.0	15.0	5.0	9.0	7.0	2.0	6.0
11	Bob Wells	7	Mercer Island, WA	Kantun S	100.0	8.0	9.0	12.0	14.0	1.0	7.0	15.0	16.0	24.0	1.0	7.0	13.0	6.0	7.0
12	Kelly Martin	77	Bellingham, WA	V8	108.0	10.0	16.0	17.0	13.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	9.0	8.0	12.0	11.0	14.0	11.0	9.0
13	Steve Toschi	94	Grover Beach, CA	Micro Brew 5	113.0	7.0	11.0	15.0	19.0	8.0	9.0	8.0	17.0	7.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	16.0	10.0
14	Peter Stevens	54	North Saanich, BC	V9	115.0	1.0	8.0	3.0	12.0	17.0	15.0	22.0	12.0	6.0	11.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	19.0
15	Bruce Andersen	16	Boise, ID	BritPop	157.0	2.0	13.0	7.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	9.0	13.0	25.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
16	Larry Stiles	64	Sedro Woolley, WA	BritPop	158.0	3.0	12.0	5.0	15.0	15.0	24.0	30.0	30.0	14.0	14.0	23.0	9.0	10.0	14.0
17	Ron Blackledge	217	Portland, OR	BritPop	173.0	11.0	21.0	10.0	7.0	14.0	21.0	21.0	14.0	20.0	16.0	13.0	16.0	18.0	13.0
18	Scott McConnell	21	Lynnwood, WA	Kantun S	177.0	6.0	14.0	14.0	23.0	19.0	10.0	13.0	19.0	16.0	15.0	19.0	17.0	21.0	15.0
19	Steve Young	13	Tacoma, WA	BritPop	209.0	9.0	20.0	22.0	21.0	18.0	20.0	17.0	10.0	17.0	20.0	22.0	20.0	17.0	20.0
20	Joe D'amico	86	Sequim, WA	Kantun SMX	216.0	7.0	15.0	20.0	18.0	26.0	23.0	19.0	20.0	18.0	23.0	15.0	19.0	19.0	30.0
21	Bill Langjahr	88	Anacortes, WA	Cheinz	228.0	12.0	23.0	19.0	26.0	21.0	17.0	25.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	27.0	18.0	14.0	16.0
22	Kurt Wells	37	Seattle, WA	BritPop	234.0	8.0	24.0	21.0	16.0	23.0	26.0	20.0	22.0	23.0	18.0	24.0	15.0	20.0	30.0
23	Daryl Ruff	67	Fife, WA	Kantun SMX	260.0	10.0	25.0	23.0	24.0	22.0	16.0	26.0	27.0	19.0	26.0	17.0	25.0	30.0	30.0
24	Bill Wilson	69	Port Ludlow, WA	Kantun SMX	263.0	13.0	28.0	26.0	20.0	20.0	22.0	11.0	19.0	26.0	27.0	30.0	21.0	30.0	30.0
25	David Jensen	68	Bellevue, WA	Kantun SMX	266.0	12.0	22.0	24.0	22.0	24.0	19.0	24.0	24.0	22.0	22.0	28.0	23.0	30.0	30.0
26	Dennis Pittis	57	Clinton, WA	Alternative	280.0	14.0	26.0	28.0	29.0	30.0	27.0	18.0	23.0	25.0	29.0	21.0	22.0	30.0	18.0
27	Craig Rantala	12	Sequim, WA	Kantun SMX	293.0	14.0	27.0	27.0	25.0	25.0	28.0	23.0	25.0	28.0	25.0	16.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
28	Ron Hornung	142	Seattle, WA	Kantun SMX	294.0	13.0	19.0	25.0	28.0	27.0	29.0	27.0	30.0	30.0	24.0	26.0	24.0	22.0	30.0
29	James McCaa	25	Seattle, WA	Topiko	315.0	15.0	29.0	30.0	27.0	30.0	25.0	28.0	26.0	27.0	28.0	20.0	30.0	30.0	30.0