

2016 CRYA IOM Prairies Regional Championship. Glenmore Sailing Club. September 24-25th

Barry Fox reporting

The West at the Blender - My Story

The end of an interesting weekend in Calgary.

I will start out by stating that I am doing just fine and then lead to why I would say that first.

We arrived here on Thursday afternoon in good time after an interesting trip. The interesting part was that I decided to take the 'low road' from Hope to Kamloops, through the Fraser Canyon. I can't remember the last time I took that road but it is likely 30+ years. Amazingly, it doesn't appear a lot different compared to my memory. And it was a nice relaxed drive with, I think, less climbing. So that was good.

Friday I went down to High River to look at a lake the guys in Calgary have found that looks like a good place for future events. Then back to town for check in and some practice. During practice I was real happy with my boat and my sailing, showing the way quite often.

So, onto Saturday. We arrived at the site, got setup, and as it got close to start time a couple of us decided to test the waters. It was fairly windy and quite cool so we were suitably dressed. As we put our boats in the water a sailing instructor on the next dock over told us that we might want to sail away as the person in a dinghy sized boat (what would I know, I only know radio sailing) was 'going out for their first time'. So we sailed away from there and over to where our course was going to be. I had sailed out to our outer mark, rounded it and was coming down wind, watching my boat. Then, without any warning, I felt a thump on my back, got spun around and pulled off the dock into the water. Full submersion but now up to the surface and lots off outstretched hands pulling on me back up on the dock. So that's where the 'I'm okay' part kicks in.

At this point my boat has turned around and is heading out into the middle of the lake. But no control as the radio screen is blank, although the power light is still on. By the way, the boat is just flying across the lake so my initial tune up on the sails was spot on. Adam told me after that they had to go after it with a lot more speed than he had expected but they did catch it and returned it to the staging area unharmed.

Anyway, it turns out that Mr. First Timer had sailed over to our dock and had his boom way out over the side so that it went over the top of the guard railing, hooked onto my radio harness and dragged me over the edge. Of course, everything on me is completely drenched. Up to the clubhouse where I got stripped down and dried off. Andrew ran over to the van and brought my laundry bag from Wednesday night which had used, but dry, undies, socks



and t shirt. And he brought the boots as well which were only in there because we have started to sail at Beaver Lake again the last couple of weeks. Derwyn had a pair of old coveralls so I used all that to get mobile and run back to the hotel to get some dry jeans.

I had already established that the radio wasn't working but had brought a second one with me so back to the lake and switch the radios and get back to sailing. I had missed six races but they had decided that I would get redress based on the rest of the day. And away we went.

I certainly didn't have as good of a time on my starts as I had hoped for and I think I did my share of sweeping weeds out of the water but at all times (except when dragging weeds) my boat was still going very well. I think I can safely say not many others were as quick on the downwind sections and it held its own nicely on the wind as well. So a good combination.

I ended the day in 8th place just 1 point adrift from David Cook and a bit farther back from Roger. So David was my target for Sunday. Steve was in a good place to challenge for the podium and Jerry Brower was on his way toward defending his position as Champion, the last two years in a row.

After a real nice BBQ at the sailing club and an unexpected presentation to become an honorary Calgarian I got back to the hotel and worked on drying out my radio some more. I had spent the afternoon with it baking in the sun in the pit area to the point where it had successfully rebooted but with one very cloudy screen. But working. At the hotel I set it up with my little portable fan blowing down at the circuit board and after about 3 hours of that the screen was clear as a bell and everything seemed to be working fine.. Gotta love the resilience of Futaba radios. So the radio has survived the whole escapade.

Sunday found us with a lot less wind but lots of sunshine. We still managed another 5 or 6 races but some of them were real drifters. However, it turns out my boat likes light winds too and I was lucky to not get caught in to many of the lulls for too long. My Sunday scores were a lot better and, I like to think, more representative of what I expected from the whole weekend. I managed one win on merit and another because someone forgot to go to the finish line on the second lap. But after my weedy races on Saturday, I'll take it. All of that done with the drowned Futaba from Saturday functioning perfectly all day.

From the west coast, our leader was Steve Kibble with a nice day of beating the boats he needed to and a climb up to the second step on the podium. Well done Steve. The rest of us locked our place in the top 10 by finishing 6 (Roger), 7 (Me) and 8 (David).

We all received an excellent photo of our boat sailing during the races on Saturday with Jerry Brower fairly handily retaining the Blender Title for another year. Overall there was some very good racing throughout the pack as well as a lot of fun visiting with everyone. A big thanks to Andrew and all his crew for organizing the event and the social activities. A

thanks to Lawrie for travelling to Calgary to PRO the event and to Chris as his 2IC and score recorder.
Looking forward to trying out that new lake next year, it looks like it could be a great location (bring your boots – it's a wet launch)

And from me, a big thanks to everyone for their concern over my unexpected dip in the water and the strong hands and arms pulling me back up on the dock. It was really appreciated.

-Barry

2016 September Blender - Glenmore Reservoir, Calgary, CAN - 9/24-25 EXCEL

Pls	Skipper	Sail	City	Hull	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Jerry Brower	42	Lk Stevens	Fraktal	37.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	10.0
2	Steve Kibble	34	Victoria	Goth XP	63.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	10.0	5.0	1.0	3.0	12.0
3	Luke Harwood	195	Calgary	PP 5	67.0	6.0	2.0	2.0	6.0	3.0	1.0	4.0	2.0	3.0
4	Andrew Baak	65	Calgary	Cockatoo 2	68.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	7.0	1.0
5	Adam Batchelor	12	Calgary	britPOP!	97.0	5.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.0	10.0	5.0	2.0
6	Roger Kibble	68	Saltspring	Pikanto	102.0	2.0	5.0	14.0	5.0	5.0	8.0	5.0	6.0	13.0
7	Barry Fox	0	Victoria	SKA	103.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	10.0	6.0	9.0	7.0
8	David Cook	03	Victoria	PP 3	129.0	4.0	6.0	9.0	4.0	8.0	3.0	7.0	11.0	8.0
9	Derwyn Hughes	34	Calgary	Cockatoo 2	147.0	9.0	9.0	10.0	12.0	4.0	11.0	12.0	10.0	11.0
10	Mark Verrey	83	Calgary	britPOP!	157.0	10.0	8.0	5.0	11.0	6.0	9.0	8.0	8.0	6.0
11	Colin Aldridge	90	Calgary	Nimbus	166.0	7.0	12.0	7.0	8.0	11.0	12.0	9.0	4.0	9.0
12	Colin Silkstone	168	Calgary	Cockatoo	200.0	11.0	10.0	8.0	10.0	9.0	7.0	13.0	12.0	5.0
13	Chris Lemke	04	Calgary	Nemo	205.0	8.0	11.0	11.0	9.0	14.0	14.0	11.0	13.0	4.0

Pls	Skipper	Sail	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Pts
1	Jerry Brower	42	1.0	6.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	5.0	3.0	2.0	6.0	6.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	37.0
2	Steve Kibble	34	4.0	5.0	2.0	1.0	12.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	8.0	4.0	5.0	63.0
3	Luke Harwood	195	6.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	7.0	1.0	5.0	10.0	11.0	10.0	67.0
4	Andrew Baak	65	3.0	1.0	12.0	3.0	9.0	6.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	7.0	3.0	3.0	9.0	68.0
5	Adam Batchelor	12	2.0	3.0	9.0	5.0	7.0	3.0	9.0	8.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	7.0	14.0	97.0
6	Roger Kibble	68	9.0	2.0	6.0	9.0	3.0	11.0	6.0	4.0	9.0	4.0	6.0	2.0	6.0	102.0
7	Barry Fox	0	13.0	8.0	3.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	7.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	4.0	9.0	3.0	103.0
8	David Cook	03	5.0	9.0	8.0	4.0	6.0	9.0	8.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	9.0	10.0	8.0	129.0
9	Derwyn Hughes	34	7.0	10.0	5.0	8.0	4.0	13.0	5.0	11.0	7.0	8.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	147.0
10	Mark Verrey	83	11.0	7.0	11.0	12.0	10.0	7.0	12.0	10.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	8.0	1.0	157.0
11	Colin Aldridge	90	12.0	11.0	10.0	13.0	13.0	8.0	13.0	9.0	12.0	9.0	7.0	5.0	4.0	166.0
12	Colin Silkstone	168	8.0	13.0	13.0	11.0	11.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	11.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	200.0
13	Chris Lemke	04	10.0	12.0	7.0	10.0	8.0	10.0	11.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	205.0