



Saltspring Island's Martin Herbert is grabbing his latest custom woody for the next heat. This one has mahogany topsides and deck over a yellow/red cedar bottom, and is stunning in concept and execution. What is new in Martin's hull design is the teardrop shaped bow that is the widest I've seen on an IOM at waterline. Martin makes his own sails too, and competes at a high level. For me this is Martin's best effort yet, and I look forward to his IOM creation next year. Bob Wells image.

2017 COW Regatta (4/28-30/17)

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

Bob Wells Reporting:

Our seventh annual COW Regatta provided an excellent light air sailing test, and an especially good show on Saturday for park strollers with the T37 class racing inside the walkway and IOMs outside. We schedule the COW in Spring for more consistent winds and minimal weed, and this year there was no weed and no rain (despite rain forecasts both days). We kicked it off Friday afternoon with measurement verification and socializing, a brief skipper's meeting, and then our dinner party; all at the home of Bob and Jackie Wells. If you come from out-of-state you pretty much have to get to Seattle Friday evening anyway, so we do all this before Saturday to maximize sailing time. Skipper attendance was one short of 100%, so the word is out that this is an afternoon and evening worth attending. 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.

Saturday started with a light southerly and this gradually went to the west. Sailing in a westerly that is almost 90 degrees from our dock is not good sailing, and frankly our nemesis at this venue. Fortunately, it was limited to only a few heats of Saturday afternoon as the wind shifted back slightly to the south. This makes all the difference in sight lines at distant marks. Sunday was a post-frontal weather condition and forecasts were all over the board. Fortunately, the convergence zone rain stayed north of us and we sailed parallel to our docks all day. The first heat was a light southerly and then it switched to a light northerly for the rest of the regatta. PRO Barry Fox ended both days a bit early when the wind calmed.

Unfortunately, I have to report the streak of a Washington skipper not ever winning the COW continues, but hope springs eternal for next year. At the end of the first day our winner, Mark Golison, separated himself from Kelly Martin to take the lead that he never relinquished. It wasn't easy as he first had to overcome a throw-out caused by a burned-out rudder servo, but then in championship fashion he replaced it and went on a terror to finish the day 1-2-2. Kelly Martin, our local light-air guru, kept the pressure on though out, but he couldn't close the gap created at the end of the first day. Golison sails a V9 with the straight foils and Kelly Martin has a new V10 with the "Martini" foils, for those wondering. Gary Boell rounded out the podium with solid sailing all regatta.

There were no surprises in the top 10, but positions below the top four shuffled from Day 1. Toschi, Damico, Donaher, and Kurt Wells in particular all had better second days to move up a few positions. A number of SMYC club regulars had good heats and showed improvement in this stiffer competition.

In the race of the custom designed and built boats, we had two choosing this more difficult way to compete. Steve Toschi's latest white boat, Micro Brew 6, bested Martin Herbert's latest varnished woody with a good second day, allowing him to switch positions from the end of the first day. In the 'most beautiful custom boat' contest, Martin's stunning beauty has it in a runaway. The IOM is an excellent class for master craftsmen like these guys with their bespoke designs that are functional art. We would have had a third custom design if David Jensen's latest woody, Race Ready II, could have certified in time. We did get to see it sail during lunch on Sunday though, and we'll enjoy following RR2's progress in local racing. I'll caution that it takes time and focus to dial in custom boats, which is why most of us sail production models with tuning guides.

Thank you to the many volunteers sharing the load to make this full-service event a success. As promised on the NOR, we donated the \$10/head that we collected in the entry fee (aka \$260) to IOM USA. Donations from ranking events is the primary way IOM USA funds itself now.

Summary of the 2017 COW Regatta (USA Club Ranking 1.0 Event):

Class: IOM

Date: April 28-30, 2017

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

Host Club: Seattle Model Yacht Club

Number of Entries: 26

Winds: light air

Races Completed: 15

Scoring System: HMS 2016, version 3.0 (6 promoted/relegated)

Race Committee & Assistants: Organizer, Registration, Measurer – Jerry Brower; PRO/Scorekeeper – Barry Fox; Jake Dahms – Race Management; Buoy Boat/Lunches – Bob Wells; and Bob/Jackie Wells – hosts for the Friday Gathering Party.

Dave Mathiesen Images: **Not available yet.**

Jerry Brower Images: <http://www.ibextrax.com/RC2017/0429COW/>

Full Results: <http://www.ibextrax.com/RC2017/Results/0429COW.pdf>

Results after 15 Races and 2 Throw-outs:

| Position | Skipper | Sail # | Club/City | Hull | Score |
|----------|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|------------|-------|
| 1 | Mark Golison | 55 | Long Beach, CA | V9 | 29.0 |
| 2 | Kelly Martin | 77 | Bellingham, WA | V10 | 38.0 |
| 3 | Gary Boell | 71 | Richmond, CA | Nitro | 51.0 |
| 4 | Jerry Brower | 42 | Lake Stevens, WA | V10 | 60.0 |
| 5 | Steve Toschi | 94 | Grover Beach, CA | MB6 | 81.0 |
| 6 | Larry Stiles | 64 | Sedro Woolley, WA | BritPop! | 83.0 |
| 7 | Martin Herbert | 38 | Saltspring Island, BC | Dart 3 | 94.0 |
| 8 | David Jensen | 68 | Bellevue, WA | V9 | 106.0 |
| 9 | Joe D'Amico | 86 | Sequim, WA | V10 | 106.0 |
| 10 | Barry Donaher | 47 | Scottsdale, AZ | V9 | 121.0 |
| 11 | Kurt Wells | 37 | Seattle, WA | BritPop! | 130.0 |
| 12 | Bruce Andersen | 16 | Boise, ID | BritPop! | 133.0 |
| 13 | Jim McCaa | 36 | Seattle, WA | Kantun S | 138.0 |
| 14 | Ron Locke | 164 | Pleasanton, CA | V7 | 156.0 |
| 15 | Bob Dunstan | 32 | Allyn, WA | V9 | 168.0 |
| 16 | Daryl Ruff | 67 | Fife, WA | Kantun SMX | 172.0 |
| 17 | Morgan Dewees | 198 | Portland, OR | Lintel MMX | 197.0 |
| 18 | Steve Young | 73 | Tacoma, WA | Cheinz | 198.0 |
| 19 | Vic Childs | 98 | Anacortes, WA | Widget | 213.0 |
| 20 | Dennis Pettis | 57 | Clinton, WA | Malteaser | 223.0 |
| 21 | Mike Hansow | 53 | Auburn, WA | V10 | 227.0 |
| 22 | Peter Sternberg | 18 | Redmond, WA | BritPop! | 231.0 |
| 23 | Steve Sutton | 140 | La Conner, WA | V9 | 252.0 |
| 24 | Bill Wilson | 69 | Port Ludlow, WA | Kantun SMX | 277.0 |
| 25 | Craig Rantala | 12 | Carlborg, WA | Kantun SMX | 303.0 |
| 26 | Jack Pulliam | 43 | Oak Harbor, WA | V10 | 321.0 |



Here's an overview of the COW & SMYC venue from the little Coulon Park tower, and Seattle is the land in the background and the south tip of Mercer Island is the taller land on the right. The IOM control area is the 300' long walkway (20% is not shown to the left, where most of the skippers are in this heat). The launch area is on the right where we store our boats between heats. The blue tent is roughly the start/finish line. IOMs race outside the walkway in "big water", and by coincidence T37s had a club race inside the walkway this day. In the foreground is Ivar's Fish & Chips and next to that is the burger restaurant and restrooms. Parking is convenient too. Bob Wells image.