



C-rigs on Lake Washington on Saturday afternoon is a first for Seattle MYC. Bob Wells image.

2019 COW IOM Regatta Report (4/26-28/19)

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

Bob Wells Reporting:

Our ninth annual COW Regatta provided an excellent all-around sailing test with a bit of an eye acuity test for weather marks. The westerly component in our winds required mark placements too far from the dock for anybody's liking. We schedule the COW in Spring for more consistent wind and minimum weed, and this year there was a little rain on Saturday. We kicked it off Friday with our first M regatta in a long time here (see our separate M regatta report). Then later in the afternoon we proceeded to IOM measurement verification (with 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 have to get to Seattle Friday evening anyway, so we do all this before Saturday to maximize sailing time - and we do like to socialize. Friday's skipper attendance was two less than 100%, so once again skippers voted that this is worth attending.

"Unsettled" was forecast for Saturday, and we got everything in wind direction and velocity. It started light from the south as predicted for a few races, and switched to a nice northerly after a lull as predicted. We had enough pressure for nice mid A-rig sailing in waves. During race 10 an unannounced northerly squall arrived forcing some backend skippers to retire, and otherwise a lot of fresh sails added for this regatta were thrashed. My port jib telltale blew off, a first for me in IOMs. The squall provided bona fide C-rig breeze and waves for race 11, settling down a little to where B-rig was best for 12-13. We have never sailed in C-rig here before, and B-rig conditions are a rare event. Unfortunately, a lot of folks left their small rigs at home, as locals are conditioned to not believe stronger forecasts. Not Bruce Andersen, who looked at me with his biggest childish grin and exclaimed "C-rig" – enough said. Like most IOM skippers he prefers a little breeze. Our afternoon squall was rare enough to make front page on local news, and it may have been a factor in a building crane collapsing and killing four.

As a fan of our local club IOM sailing, I schedule around attending our monthly 4-hour sailing events. Our competition is keen and all the IOMs have similar performance so finishes are close. The COW brings a welcome higher level of performance with the out-of-state talent, and once again the Cali boys dominated the top of our results. Everybody had their issues with the changing conditions and close competition, but the more experienced Cali folks sorted things faster to stay at the front. Day one saw George Pedrick jump to a nice lead with his Richmond neighbor, Gary Boell, in a not too distant second.

The day two forecast was a more promising northerly, which arrived a little late and stayed for the day. No more course changes! We were in A-rig all day and the long fetch created choppy waves everywhere. The challenge was to maintain speed with a little pointing, and find the shift. Pedrick started well in these conditions too, and it looked like he was coasting to a win. Then after a few races Boell gets on a nice run and closes the gap when Pedrick's results become a little mixed. Near the end Pedrick adds a few bad races, including one where a North Sails brand sail tie snagged his keel like a weed – what are the odds! At the awards ceremonies PRO Jerry Brower played it perfectly, heading to Pedrick with the 2nd place cowbell, only to veer at the last minute and give it to Boells. Turns out they tied and countback decided in Pedrick's favor.

In the race of the custom designed/built boats, we had two choosing this more difficult way. Toschi won the "name the design" contest in a big way. On the race course (after tuning together Thursday and Friday), Steve Toschi's latest white boat, *Evil Twin*, bested David Jensen's latest red one, *Race Ready 4*. The best skipper won, but most importantly both boats sailed well in all conditions. Toschi is now collaborating with Glen Murray, with Glen bringing computer analysis to Toschi's decades of seat-of-the-pants decision making. I'd like to sit in on some of their discussions. *Evil Twin* is very different for Toschi, with the much fuller bow sections. David's latest is a balsa-fiberglass one-off with V9 foils and bulb, and is his best performer to date. David is noted for his incredibly detailed CAD drawings, and he regularly shares his build logs and opinions on

RCForums.com.

The COW is a full-service regatta that is lean in the number of volunteers, yet somehow it works and the skippers keep returning. If a regular can't make it, I often get an email apologizing. Thank you to the volunteers and especially Jerry Brower for his excellent job as our rookie PRO (I'll try to sign him up for 2020). As promised on the NOR, we donated the \$10/head that we collected in the entry fee (aka \$170) to IOM USA. See you at about this same time next year - More Cowbell...!

Summary of the 2019 COW Regatta (USA Club Ranking 1.0 Event):

Class: IOM

Date: April 27-29, 2019

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

Host Club: Seattle Model Yacht Club

Number of Entries: 17

Winds: 1 – 35 mph (all but 3 races in A-rig)

Races Completed: 28

Scoring System: HMS 2016 v3

Race Committee & Assistants: Organizer, Buoy Boat, Lunches – Bob Wells; Registration, PRO, Scorekeeper, Measurer – Jerry Brower; Measurer – Larry Stiles; Buoy Boat – David Jensen; Race Management -Mike Hansow

Jerry Brower Images: <http://www.ibextrax.com/RC2019/0427COW/>

Results after 28 Races and 4 Throw-outs:

Position	Skipper	Sail	Club/City	Hull	Score
1	George Pedrick	150	Pt. Richmond, CA	V10	68.0
2	Gary Boell	71	Richmond, CA	britPOP!	68.0
3	Craig Mackey	29	Oceanside, CA	britPOP!	96.0
4	Dennis Rogers	43	San Diego, CA	britPOP!	116.0
5	Steve Toschi	194	Grover Beach, CA	Evil Twin	116.0
6	Kelly Martin	77	Bellingham, WA	V10	183.0
7	Bruce Andersen	16	Boise, ID	britPOP!	201.0
8	Daryl Ruff	67	Fife, WA	SMX	215.0
9	Bob Wells	12	Mercer Is, WA	Kantun II	216.0
10	Gene Harris	157	Pt. Richmond, CA	V9	217.0
11	Kurt Wells	37	Seattle, WA	britPOP!	221.0
12	Larry Stiles	64	Sedro Woolley, WA	britPOP!	222.0
13	David Jensen	68	Bellevue, WA	Race Ready 4	228.0
14	Joe D'Amico	32	Sequim, WA	V9jd	231.0
15	Steve Young	73	Tacoma, WA	Vision	268.0
16	Jim McCaa	36	Seattle, WA	Kantun S	333.0
17	Dennis Pittis	57	Clinton, WA	Malteaser	355.0

Full Results: <http://www.ibextrax.com/RC2019/Results/0427COW.pdf>



Our rookie PRO, Jerry Brower with his always clear course board. He announced course changes, but skippers learned of the course by viewing the board. To compensate for the nasty persistent westerly wind component, a wrinkle he added was to have a reaching mark after the gate so part of the leg was upwind. Good move.



B and C-rigs starting in a lightening squall on Lake Washington on Saturday afternoon. The new design/builds are David Jensen's USA68 RR4 (red) and Steve Toschi's USA194 Evil Twin (white). Bob Wells image.



The tradition continues with our coveted yet tacky Cowbell trophies. This year Jerry Brower assembled them with a fluro-yellow background and bright orange lettering. That's tacky. Then you add the fact that these are recycled cowbells from Brower and Wells and we get to a higher level of tacky. The scraggly ribbons left on the re-gifted bells is the final touch. Well-done JWB.