



2024 SMYC #1 is our first IOM regatta back at Coulon Park, after sailing 2023 at Sail Sand Point in Seattle. The first 4 races were the best with a light-medium northerly into a chop that was sometimes bigger than the wind, as shown here. Most started on starboard, but don't take too long to get on the longer port tack. Per Flygare photo.

2024 Seattle MYC Regatta #1 – IOM Class (March 19th at Coulon Park in Renton, WA)
 Bob Wells Reporting and Mike Hansow Scoring:

After the huge gusts then lulls of last Saturday's Gig Harbor regatta, we're back to our more common regional light winds at Coulon Park. We had sun, warmth, and lots of the public watching us as they stopped along the Water Walk to watch our regatta. It was a blue-sky feel-good day and very enjoyable. We even took our coats off in an unusually warm afternoon!

The sunny forecast included very light winds from no established direction, and unfortunately, they got it right. So, the quality of our sailing was mixed, and in three distinct wind phases. The first 4 races were the best sailing with a light-medium northerly into a chop that was sometimes bigger than the wind. This is a challenging condition where we get a lot of fleet separation. I asked some of the old guard, isn't it great to be sailing in the "Coulon" chop again – nobody agreed. For newbies, it just takes time to figure out footing quickly upwind in this with sheets eased a little, and then adjust them to add power or depower as needed.

The middle phase wind direction stayed from the north, but got super light and the chop disappeared. After a break to retune, sailing resumed on flat water with few wind ripples. It is amazing to see IOMs moving relatively quickly in highly reflective flat water. Of course, strollers have to ask, "Do they have a motor"? The occasional lulls do mess up some otherwise fun and challenging sailing. Now we're sailing much tighter as a group. But if you are early at the start or foul somebody, it can be hard to regenerate momentum to hang close to the peloton in the very light.

The third phase had our wind switch to the southwest and then the dreaded westerly came in bringing a little stronger light wind. Now we flip the start to head south and are mostly close reaching. Not a great course or satisfying sailing an IOM for me, but it is the same for everybody. We did fill the race card to complete the regatta. Better than leaving early for the pub maybe, but barely better.

IOM Coulon 3-16-2024																
Scoring: RRS Appendix A																
Sail	Sailor	Design	Rank	Tot	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	R 5	R 6	R 7	R 8	R 9	R 10	R 11	R 12
00	Peter Conze	K2	1	22	4	1	2	5	8	2	3	2	2	4	1	1
07	Bob Wells	Kantun 2	2	27	1	7	1	4	1	1	2	5	7	6	4	2
05	Dan McDuff	V10	3	36	2	4	3	3	4	7	5	6	1	2	6	10
53	Mike Hansow	V11	4	39	7	5	7	6	2	3	7	1	6	1	3	5
68	David Jensen	V9	5	40	6	2	4	1	3	8	6	4	4	8	2	10
21	Scott McConnell	Kantune S	6	46	3	3	5	7	7	6	1	3	8	5	8	6
67	Daryl Ruff	Kantun SMX	7	47	5	6	8	2	5	4	4	7	3	7	7	4
76	Cully Preston	Wedge	8	59	8	10	6	8	6	5	10	10	5	3	5	3
57	Dennis Pittis	Malteser M2X	9	97	9	8	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Sail Scoring made easy: www.afleet.app

Finishes were topsy turvy per usual. Peter Conze and his 2023 K2 dominated the sailing even though his jib was thrashed from the previous weeks sailing. Peter had the best starts all day long and was faster the last half of the regatta. Bob Wells and his 2017 K2 was 2nd and had their best moments in the first half of the regatta. He was OCS and couldn't recover way too much so he wasted some decent boat speed. Dan McDuff sailing in only his 3rd IOM regatta and generally avoided trouble and performed well all day.

Some boats had issues. Per Flygare's V10 lost his rudder into the deep just before the first start, and so Per ran the regatta and recorded the finishes to make the regatta better. Thank you, Per, for volunteering and the photography to enhance my report. Dennis Pittis started a couple of races, and then gremlins forced him to shut his boat down, and he left early for the long drive back to Whidbey Island. Rafe Beswick showed up with his V10, and then disappeared before even putting it in the water. Not sure what the issue was, but Rafe will be back.

Missing our action entirely were our travelers Jerry Brower and Dan Shier in Dallas sailing in the 23rd Annual DF95 Dallas Blowout, again organized by the indomitable Chuck LeMahieu. This often big-wind event in earlier years sailed the IOM class in February, which included bone-chilling cold with occasional sleet and snow that would be reminisced for years. This year there were Saturday delays for thunderstorms with lightening. The surprising news is a change of venue to Rush Creek Yacht Club because White Rock Lake is closed. Seems workers on a sewer main dumped 1,000,000 gallons of raw sewage into the creek feeding the lake. Make up your own punch line. Don't miss Dan Shier's videos of the event on FaceBook. As I write this, Saturday was short-course stadium sailing at the club's docks and Sunday was big open lake sailing from shore.

For our late lunch after sailing, we were back at Toreros telling lies and laughing.



The middle phase super-light wind required patience and focus. Looks like Mike (L) lost his focus and headed west. Maybe he was thinking about what to do for his wedding anniversary when he gets home? Per Flygare photo.



Daryl Ruff tuning. Where are the coats on this blue-bird day at Coulon Park? Per Flygare photo.

Next up: Gig Harbor – DF95 Regatta

(Apr 6th at Coulon Park; Renton – 10:00 AM start)



Joe Damico at the 2012 Hood River Carnage tuning his sweet red V6 that he fabricated and assembled. To improve the fledgling IOM sailing at Seattle MYC, Joe purchased his RIB for our buoy boat, and then he added the electric start Honda because the 4hp was fast enough. This has been wonderful kit, along with the buoys he made. To get more boats in our fleet, Joe also purchased the V6 molds from Pepe in Spain and built a number of good ones. Then the Britpop took the class by storm and changed IOM design preferences so his V6 work ceased. Bob Wells image.

It's Official, Joe Damico has Retired from Radio Sailing

By Bob Wells

I met Joe when he was 72 and we were just starting the IOM Fleet at Seattle MYC in 2010. For the first decade plus of our IOM Fleet, Joe Damico was a force who took it upon himself to sail in most every event and to improve our regatta kit. His improved kit included his RIB dinghy, his marks, and the portable scoring "lectern". He also built the storage box used on-site at Gig Harbor MYC. Not only that, but Joe also hauled his gear to all our regattas, a 4-hour+ round trip month after month for 12 years effort. Joe made his major commitment to our fleet because he loved IOM sailing with us, and it showed in his happy demeanor during the sailing or at the gathering after sailing. Eventually, in your mid-80's it becomes time to slow down a little, and Joe did that in 2023 when he quit travelling to sail. Now he is preoccupied with power assisted gliders in a local park.

From our first regatta in March 2010 through 2022, Joe seldom missed a local regatta at Gig Harbor or Seattle Model Yacht Clubs. If he did miss one, it was likely because he was traveling to a ranking regatta somewhere in the US or Canada. I traveled a lot with Joe to regattas, either just the two of us or with our wives. If the venue was also a preferred shopping area, our wives were there. Joe had a great run at SMYC sailing IOMs, and has definitely earned taking his break from sailing, and he is missed.

Joe's commitment to Seattle MYC didn't end when he quit sailing. Now he wanted a sailor to buy his regatta kit, so it continued to be used at SMYC regattas. Many of us wanted to purchase it, but our urban homes didn't have space to store the boat and trailer. Big Mike Hansow recently stepped up and made the purchase of all the regatta kit, which was on full display under Mike's ownership at SMYC #1. Bob and David used the RIB to set and recover the buoys and make one rescue, and a number of folks helped launch and haul the RIB before finishing at the pub. Mike's our new hero. Expect an SMYC announcement soon to help Mike with the costs of his regatta kit, like we did for Joe.

I have many Joe stories to share, but I'll pick the one he told me about his retired cruising period. Joe grew up and then worked in Long Beach, CA, where he had many jobs that included rigger, machinist, and finally fireman. When it was time to retire, he and Carole chose to purchase and move aboard a Krogen trawler to live and cruise in the Pacific NW. Of course, Joe was already skilled at operating and maintaining boats and the Krogen is a very nice one. They did this for a few years and then sold the boat to move back on land in a log house in the woods in just outside of Sequim, WA. It is a beautiful setting with a large grass field surrounded by fir mature trees.

I asked Joe why he quit the cruising life and moved ashore. Well, he said, "How many fir trees can you look at. It just got boring".



To improve our regatta kit even more, in 2017 Joe designed and built “the lectern” for the Coulon Park railing. Just grab the handles and place it where it lines up with the start or finish line. Under the lid was the score sheets and pencils (in case of rain), and the box housed the starter with additional speakers. Bob Wells photo.



Joe at home in his log house in Sequim, WA, doing his happy face Einstein imitation. Memory issues are affecting his confidence, but he is very much the same guy doing it with planes now instead of boats. Bob Wells photo.

2/20/2024 Revised

2023 PacNW IOM & DF95 Regatta Schedule

Gig Harbor Model Yacht Club • Seattle Model Yacht Club

(Other selected regattas listed for reference)

Date	Time	Club - Event Name	Location	Contact	Phone
2/16-18	See NoR	IOM – R8 Midwinters – 1.1x Ranking	San Diego, CA	See NoR	
3/2	10AM – 2PM	DF95 – Saturday Regatta	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
3/9	10AM – 2PM	IOM - GHMYC – Saturday Regatta #1	Surprise Lake, Milton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
3/16	10AM – 2PM	IOM - SMYC – Saturday Regatta #1	Coulon Park, Renton	Bob Wells	(206) 232-9036
3/22-24	See NoR	IOM - R7 Championship – 1.1x Ranking	Hobe Sound, FL	See NoR	
4/6	10AM – 2PM	DF95 – Saturday Spring Regatta	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
4/13	10AM – 2PM	IOM - GHMYC – Saturday Regatta #2	Surprise Lake, Milton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
4/20	10AM – 2PM	IOM - SMYC – Saturday Regatta #2	Coulon Park, Renton	See NoR	(206) 232-9036
5/4	10AM – 2PM	DF95 – Saturday Spring Regatta	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
5/11	9:30AM-1:30P	IOM - GHMYC – Saturday Regatta #3	Coulon Park, Renton	See NoR	(253) 205-9965
5/18-19	See NoR	DF95 - Region 6 Championship	Coulon Park, Renton	Dan Shire	(360) 789-6906
5/25	9:30AM-1:30P	IOM - SMYC – Saturday Regatta #3	Coulon Park, Renton	Bob Wells	(206) 232-9036
6/1	9:30AM-1:30P	DF95 – Saturday Regatta	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
6/8	10AM – 2PM	IOM - GHMYC – Saturday Regatta #4	Surprise Lake, Milton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
6/15	9:30AM-1:30P	IOM - SMYC – Saturday Regatta #4	Coulon Park, Renton	Bob Wells	(206) 232-9036
6/29	9:30AM-1:30P	DF95 – Saturday Regatta	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
7/13	10AM – 2PM	IOM - GHMYC – Saturday Regatta #5	Surprise Lake, Milton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
7/20	9:30AM-1:30P	IOM - SMYC – Saturday Regatta #5	Coulon Park, Renton	Bob Wells	(206) 232-9036
7/27	9:30AM-1:30P	DF95 – Saturday Regatta	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
8/2-4	See NoR	DF95 – Nationals @ Race Week	San Diego, CA	See NoR	
8/5-7	See NoR	IOM – Club Ranking	San Diego, CA	See NoR	
8/8	See NoR	M – Nationals @ Race Week	San Diego, CA	See NoR	
8/17	10AM – 2PM	IOM - GHMYC – Saturday Regatta #6	Surprise Lake, Milton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
8/24	9:30AM-1:30P	IOM - SMYC – Regatta #6	Coulon Park, Renton	Bob Wells	(206) 232-9036
8/31	9:30AM-1:30P	DF95 – Saturday Regatta	Coulon Park, Renton	See NoR	(253) 205-9965
9/7	10AM – 2PM	IOM - GHMYC – Saturday Regatta #7	Surprise Lake, Milton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
9/14	9:30AM-1:30P	IOM - SMYC – Saturday Regatta #7	Coulon Park, Renton	Bob Wells	(206) 232-9036
9/28	9:30AM-1:30P	DF95 – Saturday Regatta	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
10/5	10AM – 2PM	IOM - GHMYC – Saturday Regatta #8	Surprise Lake, Milton	See NoR	(253) 205-9965
10/12	10AM – 2PM	IOM - SMYC – Saturday Regatta #8	Coulon Park, Renton	Bob Wells	(206) 232-9036
10/26	10AM – 2PM	DF95 – Fall Series #1	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
11/9	10AM – 2PM	DF95 – Fall Series #2	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
11/16	10AM – 2PM	DF95 – Fall Series #3	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
11/30	10AM – 2PM	DF95 – Fall Series #4	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965
12/7	10AM – 2PM	DF95 – Fall Series #5	Coulon Park, Renton	Daryl Ruff	(253) 205-9965

(Green) Multi-day national events (IOM, DF95) – See NoR

(Blue) Gig Harbor DF95 Regattas

(White) SMYC & Gig Harbor IOM Regattas

(Red) = Revisions

Local Regatta Venues:

Seattle MYC @ Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park: 1201 Lake Washington Blvd., Renton, WA

Gig Harbor MYC @ Surprise Lake: Surprise Lake Village, 2800 Queens Way, Milton, WA.

Anacortes RC Sailors @ Seafarers Memorial Park: 600 Seafarers Way, Anacortes, WA



Skippers focused on getting around the weather mark in the light at the north corner of the Water Walk at Coulon. Clearly something is not going well for David, who is starring down at water in frustration. Per Flygare photo.

End