

[Bob Wells](#) reporting:

2025 Frostbite #1: Now that my gear has dried since yesterday (10/25/25), I thought I would write about this excellent club regatta. Way too often we race our 95s in light to drifting conditions inside the WaterWalk at Coulon Park. Yesterday, we raced under a weather front with a High Wind Warning Advisory during an Atmospheric River event. Despite the warnings eight intrepid regulars showed and were rewarded with a southerly, consistently a few knots more than our light air setups with some nicer gusts. During our last race the 20+ knot blast hit us with a deluge of heavy rain, but otherwise we sailed in pleasant, slightly damp conditions.

Per usual here the southerly was very shifty swinging from SE to SW the whole regatta. What was different with a few more knots of wind is that when you hit a shift, the boat responds with big gains, or losses for those that missed it. This extended over the whole course upwind and down, and positions changed a lot until the finish. For example, when Dan McDuff was on a terror in the first half of the regatta with seven firsts (atta boy, Dan), I didn't notice because I was way back in 3rd or 4th. Usually, we're closer together at the finish.

All day I enjoyed a more responsive 95 with a little more wind. Upwind easing the sails a little at the right time accelerated you to gains, and then back to pointing or another tack. Kept you on your toes. Gybing to the favored shift did the same, but sometimes it took more than a few gibes to find it. Closing at the finish in a small group the winner was often determined by who got the favored shift with pressure first, and it seemed random when the shifts came is.

Near the regatta end, some blast reaches in A rig reminded us what the 95 can do in wind. They were planning and balanced well beyond hull speed with water flying. When the 20+ gust hit during the last race, the 95s clawed to windward in balance with a huge heel while spilling most of the wind. That is impressive design work by the designers, which we don't get to appreciate enough here. DF95 Coulon Park Frostbite #2 coming November 8th.



