

10th Annual MC Team Racing Fall Regatta

MC Team Regatta Racing Brings Champagne Sailing on the Upper Minnetonka

The Upper Minnetonka Yacht Club hosted the tenth anniversary of the MC Scow National Team Regatta on its home lake. Competitors were treated to champagne sailing conditions with winds between 9 and 15 miles per hour, sunny skies, and temperatures between 68 and 70. The 2018 edition of the Team Regatta over the September 8-9th weekend brought evenly matched teams, close racing, and tight finishes. Believe it or not, it has been ten years since the first MC Team Regatta on Clear Lake-and it's still going strong.

Those unfamiliar with the team racing format, each team consists of three boats in a round-robin competition against other three boat teams. The strategy is a combination of speed, boat handling skills, and tactics over a short course.

This year's race on the Upper Minnetonka was a windward-leeward with a long windward offset. At the windward mark competitors exited in the "non-traditional" starboard side, then on a reach to the offset and downwind to the one leeward mark exiting in the "normal" port side. Competitors went around the course-twice.

Because of the scoring unique to team racing, during the race, teammates keep an eye not only on their competition, but each other to see what place they are in. A team finishing with 10 or fewer points wins. So, on the boat, while everything else is going on inside the boat and outside the boat, you need to do the math. For instance, a 1, 2, and any other place wins; a 1, 3, and another finish wins; A 2, 3, 5 finish is a winning combination as is a 1, 4, 5 finish.

And while on the course, if your team numbers are not adding to a winning combination, then tactics become critical. Teammates will cover opposing competitors to better the position of another teammate. Another might drive a competitor clear off the course. Mark trappings and tacking duels-anything within the rules to gain a better position and gain a winning combination is fair and were witnessed on the water.

Meanwhile, for the 2018 edition of the Team Regatta, competitors enjoyed lunch at the UMYC marina in its park-like setting on Enchanted Island. After the competition, competitors and guests enjoyed dinner at a local restaurant enjoying great food, drinks (first round was on the UMYC), great conversation and planning for next year's team regatta racing.

Top results for the 2018 Team Regatta: First Place: Joe Friction, John Grzybek, and Joe Reincke. Second Place: Keith Morical, Dave Abramson, Jamie Fraser; Third Place: Noel Neuman, Darin Newman and Rich Gross, and Mike Schlutz.

The UMYC will host the 2019 edition of the Team Regatta on the Upper Minnetonka Lake. Plan for 2019's Team Regatta-it's unique; it's challenging; and above all, it's fun!