

**2012 Horserace MC-Scow Regatta
June 2-3, 2012
Saratoga Lake Sailing Club
Saratoga Springs, NY**

The second installment of the Horse Race Regatta was greeted with a forecast for rain, rain and then a bit more rain with a wind forecast that left velocity out of it. This forecast kept a few boats from hitting the road Friday, but 18 MC-Scow teams arrived during Friday afternoon and evening from locales such as Keuka, NY the home of the 2011 MC Nationals, Montreal, the future home of a 2012 and certainly a 2013 International MC regatta, several sailors from Connecticut with ties to the Midwest, a growing Saratoga fleet and yet another Michigan sailor out of semi-retirement with Trish “Keenan” End showing us all why Tom was much faster in his C-Scow in years gone by.

Friday had boat prep and some practice sailing along with a dinner party at a local restaurant where a new fund has been established to sponsor the “Bob Cole balloon ride”. The visually unique borrowed boat for Trish “Pinky Tuscadero” End was re-named Floyd to go with the unique color of this hull. You don’t see them like this anymore.



The unique nature of the Saratoga Lake Sailing Club allows for everyone that wishes to find some sleeping space inside the club. This kept the campers out of the rain (other than the brave Steve Anderson) and also allowed for the evening card game and free beer consumption to exceed standard limits.

Saturday dawned with a fading breeze and overcast and drizzly skies. The RC pleasantly gave everyone a few more minutes to get their boats rigged and into the water and by 10:30 the first race was underway in a consistently light 3-8mph out of the east. Not huge holes to get stuck in which was a bit surprising for the wind velocity and even more shocking after speaking to the RC about typical East wind conditions on this long North/South lake. Trish and Bob Wynkoop jumped off the starting line and showed us all that she should have been a skipper long ago and jumped into the lead with myself in second and then a gaggle of boats nipping right at my heels. Bob was looking for the knockout on the right hand side of the course and the angle just didn't last long enough to get him to the windward mark. The course seemed split with where the best breeze was. The left had better velocity, but not always a consistent angle. The right had a bit less velocity and occasionally a great starboard angle, but the oscillations were inconsistent and tough to read. Overall the left side of the course was the place to be.

The race was tight between Trish and Zack with the lead swapped several times and Trish taking the lead on the last run, but a split in gate choice worked well for myself and I was able to squeeze out enough of a lead to be able to cover to the finish and take race 1 with an excited Trish in a strong second with Will and Sean Treacy in 3 and 4.

Race two was more of the same with a bit more "left" in the course. Bob Cole learned from race one and took an early lead, never to let it go leading from pin to pin in this race, with Wynkoop, Treacy, Trish, John Kimball and an ever changing group just behind. I must have spent more time worrying about myself than the rest of the race as this one is a bit more foggy to me (or it could have been the rain), but I was able to sneak in behind Cole with Treacy sailing a great race to finish third.

Race 3 was much closer to the ever popular "Crazy Ivan" of Eric Hood fame, but the RC did a great job of keeping options open and shifting marks to get a pretty darn good race. Regatta chairman Devon Howe took off like a rocket in this race and had an early lead as the breeze made a big shift to the left just after the start, making most of the fleet over stood. Devon and myself hit the top mark basically at the same time. After a tense and tight first run, the RC moved the windward mark way left and squared up the next beat. Most of the fleet was looking for a continued turn to the left and hedged their bets further that direction. Bob Cole, Will Hendershot and myself squeezed forward in the fleet with Wynkoop and Trish close behind. Bob, Will and myself all rounded the final leeward gate neck and neck. An early tack for myself into just a tad more pressure and angle allowed for myself to take the lead with Bob second and Will third. The RC was ready for race #4. Not sure that the fleet was, but the RC was 100% correct and race 4 would be the best breeze of the day.

With the wind more northerly, running more with the length of the lake, the breeze stabilized a bit and opened the options up to the fleet a bit. Sean Treacy hit the first beat perfect and used the middle right of the course to take the lead at the top mark with Bob Cole and myself close behind. The second beat watched Bob and Sean work back to the right, while I pushed a tad

further left at the top and stepped into a good port and was able to grab the lead. This one ended with myself taking the bullet, with Treacy second followed by Cole and Hendershot.

The fleet returned to shore to enjoy post race chat and a great BBQ chicken dinner with more food than you can shake a stick at. Overall a great day of racing on the water with wonderful work done by the RC and the SLSC.

Day 1 keys were to work hard at keeping the boat rolling with proper sail trim and angle of heel. For most of the fleet it was a day with tons of moving around in the boat. Not much time under the boom and not much time spent hiking or pulling controls, so smooth movements and mainsheet trim to stay accelerated were key. Patience was another big key. On the beats you needed to be confident that you had gotten into the shift and velocity before you tacked as the breeze did not move down and through the course quickly and the downwind offered chances for the second and third groups to close the gap on the leaders with just about every downwind compressing the fleet as the new breeze came from behind. Not fleet inversion type changes, but certainly room for passing.

Results after Day 1:

1. Zack Clayton - 5
2. Bob Cole - 11
3. Trish End - 18
4. Will Hendershot (tie) - 18
5. Sean Treacy – 19



Day two greeted the fleet with glassy wind conditions, but happily no more rain and drizzle. Unfortunately after a two hour postponement the breeze never did fill and the day was abandoned and Day 1 results become final.

Huge thank you to all of the SLSC MC fleet members with Devon Howe and his wife and daughter slaving away to keep everyone full of great food and beverage, John Kimball for organizing RC and helping with set-up and launching, Bob Wynkoop for finding long lost sailors like Stephen Dix and Trisha "Keenan" End and getting boats for them to race, Will Hendershot and his team from Montreal (Andre and Andre) and a big thank you to my boat owner John Collins for having his boat set and ready for me to race.

Zack Clayton