



2012 Lowcountry Regatta, Beaufort SC photo credit: Carol W Medeja

The first day of the Lowcountry Regatta (LCR) in Beaufort was as good as it gets. 10-14 out of the south, high 80's. We again sailed 3 miles south of BYSC in an area called the Sands, which overlooks the confluence of two rivers. This opens up a fairly wide area to race. We sailed there in the last LCR and in the Masters Championship in October as many might remember. We had fourteen (14) MC's and they took advantage of both sides of the course. Lenny Krawcheck and Tommy Harken from Charleston must have remembered last year and hit the left side (east) to good advantage, finishing in that order after the WL2 course. John Potter, 2011 Masters Champ, and sailing with his 7 yr old nephew experienced some difficulty and ended up back in the pack.

However, in race 2 and 3 John Potter poured it on and won both races, followed closely by Lenny, Tommy and John Lovin from Augusta, who was happy to be beating his brother-in-law, Justin Annis. Going into the great Lowcountry Boil party of Sat. night Lenny led with 6 pts, followed by Tommy with 7 and the rest in the 14 pt plus area.

Going out to the course on Sunday morning we experienced something never seen in the Beaufort River -some variety of kelp or ocean floor plant life brought up from the recent storms in the ocean and sent by the current 8 miles up the river. It was pretty thick. As PRO I tried to set the line and course so that most boats would miss all of the floating mess and eventually it seemed that it all went up current toward Beaufort.

Unfortunately not all went away and John Potter sailed into a patch which kept him out of 1<sup>st</sup> for the 4<sup>th</sup> race, which has also turned into a much lighter wind race. This time Lenny won. Charlie Laffitte sailed a great race and finished 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Just as we were getting ready to blow off the last race due to the dying wind here came the sea breeze at 8-9 and we were able to have a fine 5<sup>th</sup> race of the regatta. John Potter again winning followed by Tommy and John Lovin. Lenny dropped to 4<sup>th</sup> for this race but was able to hold on for the win. Overall Tommy Harken was 2<sup>nd</sup> and John Potter was 3<sup>rd</sup>. The brothers-in-law from Augusta finished 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, giving John Lovin some bragging rights for awhile.

We hope that you will all come back to Beaufort June 22-23, 2013.

Frank Pontious