



**Rebel Rouser 2012**  
**Report by Amy Larkin**

After a year hiatus the Rebel Rouser returned at its usual date (end of April), at the same location (Lake Lanier) and with the same nefarious wind. Or lack of. The wind was not cooperative on Saturday and even worse on Sunday (none). However, the experienced race committee led by David Reddaway, managed to get two races in before the wind died completely on Saturday.

**Race 1.**

Showed many different leaders as well as mishaps - think wrong side of course and marks contacting boats. The wind was light and fluky, with speed coming from the dark puffs of wind which moved up and down the sides of the course at what appeared to be random shifts. I for one, was never in-phase for the shifts and could not get the boat going on the right i.e. lifted tack. Most of the boats that were fast, stayed on one tack for a long period of time - did not matter if it were right or left - the middle was not the place to go. A downwind finish after 2 weather legs made for a very interesting and crowded finishing with first place separated from last by about 2 minutes. All the boats were somehow crowded into that short two minute span - crowded and inches are all that I remember.

**Race 2.**

Started well and an optimistic RC put up a 3-leg notice. Well, it was a nice gesture, but soon to be shortened after what was left of the wind died completely somewhere between the start, the first weather leg and the first run. Boats that had done well on the left hand side of the course in the previous race were left literally drifting to the weather mark as the wind died completely on that side of the course. The right hand side did better but when the wind died, it was better to be near the leeward mark and not headed towards the weather mark. The race was subsequently shortened; if you ask about the string rule, be sure to talk to Jack Kern and Bob Cole as Bob did not pull the string through the shortened mark/line and had to extradite himself

with some fancy light air maneuvering. He got it right despite all the race pundits on the sidelines and completed a first place finish in second. Justin Annis and Amy Larkin followed not too far behind and made it through the finish line successfully. The rest of the fleet were still rounding the leeward mark at that time and straggled over the line in a classic light air, <1 mph speed.

The previous days had blown close to 25+ knots and Willi Lenkeit remarked that he had not seen it so windy for quite a long time - however, as stated above, not on Saturday and Sunday. Maybe MC sailors should take a page out of the iceboater's book and race only when they can find good wind and not so much on a defined timeline...right.

The dinner was classic Southern and cooked to perfection by Amy's husband, Bob. All in all, a typical beautiful night of eating, drinking and swapping stories of a RV rescue somewhere deep inside the Perimeter (ask Jack to tell the story of how a loaded RV and MC trailer, can make it across five lines of Friday rush hour traffic in the ATL). Makes for a good tequila drinking moment...

The weather **will** cooperate next year and MC Fleet 3 will get its local sailors better equipped to show that local conditions favor the locals and not the out-of-towners (note - Justin - not out-of-staters!)  
The wind will return (maybe in the fall)!!