

2014 Lake Fenton Sailing Club

Cage Match Regatta May 31st & June 1st

The 2014 Lake Fenton regatta was the closest one yet. In the end the top five boats were only separated by two points. The regatta featured two races Saturday due to lighter winds and two nice races Sunday.

Saturday the wind was light and shifty with some big holes particularly the afternoon race Saturday. Chris Craig led the first rounding in both races only to be chased down and passed in both. John Hans a two time Fenton champion and the defending champion came back to pass Chris on the last beat. Stuart Strother used what would become a theme for the day, he went hard left all the way to the east shore and found a huge lefty that almost got him past both John and Chris, and instead he wound up second. Richard Blake was fast all race and ended up fourth, ahead of Julie Craig in fifth. By the end of the day people were calling Julie "East Shore Julie" because she worked the left so hard all day.

Race two Dave Nickels the head Judge had to wait for enough breeze to start the fleet. The breeze held until the last beat right before the finish with only about 100 yards to go. Richard Blake and Stuart Strother had both passed Chris and were in a battle for the lead, with Richard holding the edge. The wind died and came up slowly from the left. Chris was hard left and reached the breeze first and sailed over what was now a pack of about ten boats all bunched together. He tried to reach down to finish only stalling out about ten boats lengths from the finish. Clark Wade had worked hard left behind Chris, and now had the breeze driving over Chris to win a back comeback victory. Julie won the battle of the pack to finish third behind her husband. Richard Blake who had sailed great to get the lead dropped to fourth in the fluky finish, followed closely by Stuart. This turn of events would have a huge impact on the final regatta standings.

The wind died until about six PM when it built to a nice south east breeze that would blow all night. The fleet was preparing for the steak dinner at that time, but Clark Wade did get out and get some great sailing in.

Sunday morning the wind started southeast by slowly swung south with some southwest shots in it. Instead of the long windward leeward of day one, the course was shifted to the famous Fenton Figure eight with two separate windward legs, a reach and a really long downwind.

Jack Sanderson got the early lead in this one, but Richard Blake and Stuart Strother worked through and where battling for the victory and the regatta lead. As the two leaders battled each other Clark Wade came from the left to sneak past the two leaders, his second come from behind right at the finish victory in a row. Richard was second, followed by Stuart, Jack Sanderson and Doug Kiser.

This set a great battle to see who won the regatta in the last race. Stuart and Richard both had 11 points while Clark and Chris had 12 points. Jack Sanderson was right there as well with 14 points.

Race four Jack Sanderson took the early lead and after his big downwind on the third leg he would not be caught and posted his 15 points in the clubhouse to see what unfolded behind him. Chris Craig had held second the whole race behind Jack only to have Richard Blake pass him half way up the final beat. With about

fifty yards to go Chris was on port with Richard in front and on starboard, Chris started to duck but Richard tacked to cover, Chris headed back up and was inside on port. The wind on the right was fading and breeze was coming off the left with of course Clark Wade rolling towards the two boats, whoever won this battle would win the regatta. Chris tacked back to port in front of Clark and was able to clear Richard on starboard to finish second and win the regatta with 14 points. Clark nipped Richard to finish third and second overall with 15 points as his two bullets took the tiebreak from Jack who finished third, but only had one bullet. Richard sailed fast all weekend but just did not catch a break he slipped from winning the regatta with a possible second to fourth in the race and fourth overall also with 15 points, but no bullets to lose the three way tiebreak. Stuart finished fifth and wound up fifth with 16 points. It was really, really close! It was a blast!

Chris Craig