

## 2017 MC Scow Southwest Regatta Report

16 MC's enjoyed a chamber of commerce weather weekend at Windycrest on Sept 30-Oct 1st. Perfect conditions all weekend long. We kicked off the event with a hamburger cookout in the pavilion on Friday night. Along with the usual Windycrest gang our guests were Ray Kuntz and Scott Griffiths from the Missouri Yacht Club, Bill Draheim and Mary Ann Hopper from Rush Creek Yacht Club, and Mark Marling from Shawnee Yacht Club in Topeka.

The fleet hit the water on Saturday morning for a race before lunch. The forecast called for 5 building to 10 from the south. The wind promptly died at the 5 minute gun but the RC hung in there and the wind came back up at the gun. It slowly got better throughout the race. (W-2-1/2) Bill took off from the boat end and built a nice lead that he never relinquished. On the last 1/3rd of the last beat a nice starboard tack lift arrived and allowed the 5th, 6th and 7th placed boats to flip with the 2nd, 3rd and 4th place boats. Go figure.

After lunch, the SSE wind became more steady, but we all suffered from puffs, lulls, and shifts that makes MC racing so challenging and fun. To do well on a day like this you need to be shifting gears and keeping your head out of the boat. Once again, Bill, with Mary Ann Hopper crewing, had a nice start and was constantly squirting away from the rest of the fleet, proving to be the one to beat this weekend. Drew had another strong race (W-2) and was followed by Harvey, Scott, and Stephen to round out the top 5.

Race three (W-2) feature a dip in the wind and a 30 degree left shift. Lots of sailors felt that lefty and got on port heading right. Danny was left of everyone and was forced further left, and by the time he tacked back, was in nice breeze no one else had on the port tack layline. Roger had a 2nd, helping his scores followed by Harvey, Mark, and Tim. The RC did a nice job on the 2nd windward mark change, keeping the course square.

Race four (W-2-1/2) enjoyed a nice 6 to 8 from the southeast. Dan Jarrett, who is an ace catamaran sailor sailed a great race. Not only was he fast this race, he was pointing high too. Harvey and Danny couldn't catch him on the final beat. Mark put together a good race and Drew finished 5th. This race it seemed if one got out on the corners of the course it was really difficult to get back to the middle, making it tough to do much passing.

Saturday we had an excellent party. The cook your own ribeye dinner was a big hit as usual. The beer and booze flowed and everybody just loved the Chris Combs Trio. Really tight, think Jeff Beck. Eventually though, we all crashed out to duke it out again Sunday morning.

The 9:30 start Sunday morning began in a 8 to 10 from the south with a forecast to build. Bill and Mary Ann once again proved their experience with a fast start off the pin end, right where they need to be. They led the entire race. Stephen and Scott both did a nice job playing the shifts and sparring with each other to finish 2nd and 3rd. Harvey took 4th and Danny 5th.

The final race (W-2-1/2) of the regatta is what Bill really needed. That way he could discard the DNF he took Saturday. The wind piped up to 19 between races but backed down a much more manageable 15 at the start. If you had crew, you were picking them up for this race. Bill showed why he and Mary Ann make such a great team. Another good start, they kept slowly moving away from the competition, taking advantage of puff and shift after puff and shift. Danny sailed well with crew and was 2nd the whole way around but never had a real chance. Stephen, Drew and Harvey finished 3-4-5 and I don't think they ever switched positions after the first weather mark. All in all another great day of MC racing.

First off, congrats to Bill and Mary Ann on the win. Well sailed and well deserved. Thanks to all of our out of town guests. We all know that traveling to regattas makes for great times for both hosts and guests. We so much appreciate your being here. Another round of thanks to all of the Fleet 32 and Windycrest members for all you did to make the regatta a success. Finally, what a stellar job the PRO Skeeter Chilton and the RC did! Thanks for all your on the water efforts to create a first class event.

Danny Ziegler, Regatta Chair