

2019 Wanamaker race at Island Heights

This past Saturday we had 5 out of 7 registered boats show up for some big breeze on the Toms River. While there wasn't the carnage that the E Scow's displayed out on the Wanamaker Course (see Peter Slack Photos) the big breeze and navigating two other fleets on the river course had it's challenges.

The MC Fleet was starting behind the A Cats and ahead of the Flying Scots. Sailing windward/leeward courses with a SW wind meant short legs with lots of traffic from the other fleets on the river. While the A Cats seemed to have traded some paint, the MCs sailed clean races flying around the course.

All the MCs were sailed single handed despite the lobbying by some ashore to convince some people to jump on as crew. Ed Vienckowski made his Fleet 105 debut. Ed spent some time working on his capsize recovery methods prior to race 1 and then again on one of the upwind legs of race 1.

Two races were sailed in shifty breeze 12-20kts from the SW. Some puffs came off the South shore of the river in the mid 20's and gave the RC a reason to cancel the third race.

Race 1 saw those that went to the left side of the first upwind leg get around the windward mark first. Race 2 started with a large lefty at the start with a big righty coming down the course as indicated by the A Cat fleet that started 5 minutes before the MCs. Tying into the right proved to be the move as the shift stayed for most of the leg and allowed me to get around the windward mark first hold the lead for the duration.

It was definitely a two person day on the water. Being the biggest skipper obviously was a huge advantage for me. I still was dropping my traveler about 6 in and vang sheeting in the puffs and saw definite speed differences between myself and other boats ahead and out of the puffs. I also experimented with different board angles upwind. While it is hard to know exactly the difference in angle I was using, I definitely found that it minimized the weather helm.

That being said Jarrett Lynn was moving very well despite being much lighter. He was using a hardly used North ZOne radial sail that seemed to be very fast in the heavy breeze.

Regards,

Sean Bradley