

Bottoms Up II



Aggressive Start

With a favorable Saturday forecast, competitors in our annual MC Bottoms Up II Regatta set out for the start line with a sense of optimism. Chris Mielke, Our PRO had outlined his goal to finish 4 races for the day against the possibility that Sunday's weather forecast for winds barely passing zero might be accurate.

At the start, we had a light breeze out of the NNE that rapidly dwindled to a vacuum. We shortened course to get a finish with a few boats hung out to dry in a persistent "hole". Fortunately, the WNW shift our weather gurus predicted materialized just about the time everyone returned to the start area. After a short postpone to reset the course 180 degrees and one general recall (the fleet was antsy to do some real sailing) race 2 started in about 5 knots of fairly steady wind and a very light chop.

We had a total of 15 boats. 4 were excellent sailors from Lake Lanier Sailing Club, one from Lake Norman, and the rest from LMSC. With winds holding throughout the remainder of the afternoon, we did complete our fourth race under clear blue skies and got off the water just in time to chow down on some delicious farm Boy's BBQ.



Kurt Stadele (right) Regatta Champion

The series winner, Kurt Stadele, showed us his stern all day Saturday. He made it look really easy. Four races on Saturday? Good call! Sunday dawned cool but calm and never developed a breeze long enough to start a race.

Instead of sailing, Kurt gave us an impromptu clinic in the parking lot, freely sharing rig tuning, sail trim, and boat preparation tips. We learned a number things that can hopefully make our boats faster.

Even though the regatta became a one day sailing event, guests and hosts alike had a terrific time.