



2013 Scowabunga

As always, this was a great regatta. Between Jan Varnell, the race committee this year headed by Bill Robertson and the effort put on by the fleet, Privateer Yacht Club puts on one of the best regattas anyone could ask for.

So how can we go from 27 participants in 2012 to 12 this year? Mind boggling. The weather played a factor as the forecast indicated thunderstorms and rain. Had it been not been for this forecast I think we would have put 19 boats on the line. But still that is a down size. Going to others regattas definitely helps. Our fleet did not travel as much but still there were away events where we have 5 or 6 Privateers participating. It could also be the economy catching up with us. The C22 fleet and Scot Regatta were also affected by weather. We at least got in 4 good races under the conditions that could have turned bad. The races were fair and long and square – well as square as Lake Chickamauga allowed for.

Kurt Stadele from Lake Lanier, Georgia fought David Moring from Lake Eustis, Florida the entire event with Kurt coming out on top due to one (1) mistake that took Dave from a first place finish to a 3rd place finish in the first race of the series. While on the second downwind run, Dave thought that the gate was a mark and rounded it as a mark which allowed both Kurt and Chris Cyrul to get ahead of him after he

realized his mistake and corrected it. One mistake! Dave went on to win race 2 while Kurt won race 3. While their overall scores were 5 and 9 points respectively, most of the racing on all the legs was tight with Dave and Kurt within 5 boat lengths of each other for the entire event. Kurt covered David or vice versa almost every leg (Dave stated prior to the racing that he needed to watch Kurt closely as boat speed was very similar). The end result could have been a tie with each sailor having 2 first and 2 seconds. In the 3rd race David made the mistake of splitting tacks when he was behind and rather than get a break he ended up letting another competitor slip in between them.

On the home front Josh Landers sailed a consistent series taking third by one point over Steve Sherman in 4 Th. Steve beat Josh in all but one race. But in that race Steve took a flyer to make a big gain and get back in the top 5. Instead he almost got DFL. That one decision cost him third place.

Each competitor received their sailing instructions in a beautiful computer storage pouch complements of McLaughlin Boat Works. As always everyone got to choose a marine door prize ranging from racing watches to luggage and heavy weather MC mast floats. The food was again out of this World. Good drinks and cook your own steaks made this one of the best on shore events we have had. For the first time we have a perpetual trophy that Kurt now has in his possession. It honors such greats Scowabunga Winners as Eric Hood and others. Kurt will be the only Sailor who has won the Regatta twice.

SAVE THE DATES: SCOWABUNGA 2014 May 17 and 18 or do whatever the rest of you were doing this year while we waited for you.