

Springboard 2013

Springtime in the South brings us the Springboard Regatta at Western Carolina Sailing Club in Anderson, SC. This has always been a great regatta with gracious hosts, good food, beautiful lakeside camping, and all the bottled beer an MC sailor could ask for. Typically there are 6-10 MC's that come out for this regatta, but this year it was Dennis Fisher, MC newcomer Marc Bailey, and Jonathan Few there to slug it out. We all had been watching for the perfect forecast of 72 degrees and 8-10 knots for several weeks. Spring was finally here! We had the sunshine, warm temps, but the wind never really made it to perfect high side sailing. WCSC's RC did a wonderful job of getting a total of 4 races off over two days. There were no crazy Ivan shifts or huge holes to leave us stranded, so we can call it above average lake sailing.

The first race was started in typical MC style with all 3 of us over early. We scrambled back and quickly took off in separate directions. Jonathan picked up the lead by heading right as Marc and Dennis went left. Jonathan did learn a valuable lesson by tacking away from Marc on the last upwind leg and gave up the win. He learned about always covering your competition, even if you are on a bad tack. We completed the day with two more races and everyone was within two points of each other.

WCSC treated us to a great dinner and live music by the Soggy Bottom Boys. Maybe it was somebody else, but there were definitely some pickin' and grinnin'!

Sunday's forecast was looking great, but the weather man must have been throwing darts because we had only one more race in low side conditions. Marc and Dennis came off the line very strong and were ready to flop over on onto port for a last minute shift. Marc was able to stretch out a nice lead on Dennis and Jonathan. Jonathan was able to catch up with Dennis with one leg to go and finish in second and save the regatta. No one wants to lose a tie breaker!

A big thanks goes out to WCSC and Dennis Fisher who is always a great host. I hope everyone welcomes Marc Bailey to the class and wish him and his crew luck on his Melges 24 at CRW. Please let me encourage everyone to sign up for Springboard Regatta next year. It is not one to miss.

Jonathan Few

Privateer

Chattanooga