

57th Open Regatta July 2019
Hobcaw Yacht Club | July 13-14, 2019

Pos	Sail	Skipper	Yacht Club	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Total
1	15147	Ryan Davidson	CoCYC	1	4	1	1	[5]	1	8
2	14636	Drew Lisicki	-	3	1	2	4	1	[5]	11
3	15116	Will Sloger	Hobcaw Yacht Club	4	2	3	2	6	[8]	17
4	1475	Batton Kennon	Delta Sailing Association	[8]	3	4	8	3	2	20
5	14266	Andrew Bercovici John Cameron	HYC	2	5	6	6	[11/OCS]	3	22
6	14728	Elaine Parshall	CSC	[6]	6	5	5	2	6	24
7	15387	Darby Reddaway	Lake Lanier Sailing Club	[9]	7	8	7	4	7	33
8	14044	Patrick Chisum	CHYC	10	9	7	3	[11/OCS]	9	38T
9	14688	William Jones	YIYC	7	10	9	[11/RET-BF]	8	4	38T
10	14780	Sydney Register Ryan Hamm	Hobcaw Yacht Club	5	8	[10]	9	7	10	39

The 2019 Hobcaw Regatta saw an interesting mix of sailors this year. If I'm correct about people's ages, 6 of the 10 skippers, and 4 of the top 5, were under 30 (I'm guessing with Drew and Batton). I recall someone saying that every boat had at least one JIYC instructor on board. If it wasn't for them, and the many sailors from the various colleges in the region, I'm not sure that we could put together a fleet. I had two college students on board who were new to Lightnings, Caroline Puckett and Nick Brittain. I think that we can conclude from this that the southeastern Lightning class is showing some strength in recruiting younger sailors.

It was the first SELD traveling regatta this year for 7 of the 10 skippers. The winner, Ryan Davidson, is a former boat grantee, and this year's boat grantee, Team Reddaway, was also there. A new team was on the scene, headed up by Sydney Register, sailing on a boat from Coach Hamm's fleet (he has something like 10 boats that he lends out to primarily junior sailors). We just need to get more of the regular sailors back on the water!

The sailing was classic Hobcaw for those week-ends when we don't get a sea breeze. For the first 3 races on Saturday, it was blowing 5 – 10, oscillating out of the SW, with an incoming current (from upwind). Our PRO, Harvey McCormick, remarked that he was sorry for putting the start and finish lines so close to the shore, but he didn't think the anchors would hold in the channel. The weather mark was off the south point of Daniel's Island, so the Cooper River's current, which wraps around Daniel's Island and heads east, was a factor in laying that mark. The wind increased to 15 – 20 for the last race, which made for some exciting gybes downwind, and upwind could be challenging if you didn't have time between races to adjust your rig tension. It seemed like Harvey barely gave us time to drink a bottle of water before he was starting the sequence again, but he managed to give us 4 races, while getting us off the water by 4:00. It was nice to be met by the group of HYC volunteers, in the water and on the tractors, helping you get your boat in and out of the water. The free beer and hanging out in the pool with good music and food afterwards wasn't so bad either. At the end of the day, Ryan with 7 points, was followed by Drew Lisicki with 10 and Will Sloger with 11.

These 3 held their overall positions in the 2 races on Sunday. It's interesting, I've been tracking what happens with throw-outs, noting that only 1 or 2 boats are typically affected by them, and this held true again for this regatta, with Batton Kennon moving from 6th to 4th on Sunday with an 8th as a throw-out, and Andrew Bercovici (skippering John Cameron's boat) managing to stay ahead of us with an 11th as a throw-out. Sometimes, it doesn't pay to be consistent. We had the course to ourselves on Sunday, with the SIOD's bowing out due to 'excessive winds', but by the time the big container ship departed the area, the winds had dropped down to 0 – 10, with the weather mark tucked under Daniel's island. It was sometimes challenging to get away from it downwind because the wind seemed to always drop to nothing when you rounded. We did 3 laps, and Harvey did that thing with a close reach to the finish, after gybing around the leeward mark. I know that I for one wished that we had doused our chute on that last rounding.

More commentary on the races can be found at the Youtube links below (You can also find them by searching for each person's name, or Hobcaw 2019).

Ryan Davidson: <https://youtu.be/Wenz4WfC8CI>

Jordan Wiggins: <https://youtu.be/2wZTbE9BAsc>

Team Reddaway: <https://youtu.be/FXhmRrmI3YA>

Bill Wiggins: <https://youtu.be/aIEMsa54MR0>

Our next regatta is Charleston, July 20-21, with Carolina the following, and Wrightsville's open after that. However, the next one that counts for the SELD traveling series is in Augusta in September 7 – 8, followed by Wrightsville's invitational Sept. 21 - 22.