

2013 SLSC MC Horserace Regatta

by Zack Clayton

Hello Race Fans! Chiming in from Eastern New York and wonderful Saratoga Lake with a quick regatta re-cap.



First and foremost, everyone must again thank the Howe family. Without Devon's and Cathy's dedicated preparations, registration, phenomenal food, trophy fabrication, and constant efforts to please, this regatta would never happen. In just a quick few years, the regatta has gone from nothing to 20+ boats competing in youth, women, under 50, master and grand master categories while emanating from NY, CT, OH, FL, Canada, NJ and more.. Great PRO work and help at the crane for daily launch and retrieval, plus plenty of room for camping and upstairs lodging at the club make this an inexpensive, leave your wallet in the car and your keys in your pocket type event!

The racing was good. Four races on day one with 2-12mph and one race on the final day in 3-8mph all from variants of S-SW. Race one was the lightest of the event and made for tough downwind sledding, but the fleet managed and Chris Norman came from 3 or 4 on the last beat to take the race win. Race 2 saw a freshening breeze for the last beat of the race and Chris Hawk, along with a mistake from Zack Clayton of not knowing the number of laps on the race board, allowed Chris to nip Zack at the line for the race win. Race 3 of the day had a bit of a steam on Zack's head after letting one slip away and he took race three.

Race four saw a big left shift off the starting line with Andre Marcotte from Montreal making the best of it after changing the lead several times with Bob Wynkoop and William Hudson. He got the gun for his first ever regatta race win and the ceremonial toss into the lake afterwards. The Montreal contingent led by former Olympian Will Hendershot is improving quickly, taking third and fifth in this event.



After Day 1 there were plenty of sore bodies and a tie for the top spot between Chris Hawk and Zack Clayton. The next group had Will Hendershot and Chris "I snapped my hiking stick" Norman tied for 3rd and 4th. After plenty of free beer, a great meal and some bad card playing in the club's "game room" til 2am, the fleet retired for some well deserved rest to get ready for the final day of racing.

Day 2 dawned with spotty breeze and an on-shore AP flag. The wind filled a bit and we were off to decide the top spots of the Horse Race Regatta. Chris Hawk jumped out to a big lead only to see it fizzle while having to hold off a hard charging Zack Clayton at the very end. Chris Norman made a terrific late push to get into second in this one (third overall), but it was "Fast Willy" Hendershot showing us all that he knows light breeze and is willing to get to the correct edge of the course, taking this final race with a comfortable lead.

Overall we can easily see that the fleet is improving, the racing is much tighter and the results are more jumbled each season, which is great for everyone. Five races with 5 different winners makes for some IRG "Individual Race Glory" for all.

Final Results:

1. **Chris Hawk - Keuka**
2. **Zack Clayton - LESC**
3. **Will Hendershot - VDM**
4. **Chris Norman - NJ**
5. **Andre Gagnon - VDM**



Get your boats packed and out to Clear Lake, IA for the Nationals later this week! Great job Saratoga and we will see you again in 2014. Finally, a big "Thank You" to David Glasser for loaning me a boat to sail!

Best regards,

Zack Clayton



See Photos Here: https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B5s-KfLG_0YROEN0c19pUXdGNGs&usp=sharing