

2018 Warm Water Regatta Report

This year's WWR followed a similar format to the previous 2 years. Everyone enjoyed the Saturday training followed by a themed dinner (Spanish) and then a one-day regatta on Sunday. The regatta began with an early start and continuous racing until around 2 pm. The event was attended by 14 boat crews for both days. Iain & Lesley Tulloch from Nova Scotia drove down for this event, as well as the regular sailors from Michigan and parts of Ontario.

Training:

This year we were honoured to be trained by Jeff Beitz. Jeff is currently a crew in the competitive Albacore fleet. He is Commodore of the Canadian Albacore Association and the owner of Georgian Bay Marina.

Jeff's passion for sailing, boat trim and boat rigging were evident in his approach for the training. Jeff focused on 3 areas of sailing:

First were the crew and their contributions and responsibility for the race.

Second was in boat trim where we had on water adjustments to the jib to optimise slot and jib twist for the light wind conditions that we were experiencing.

Third was tactics where he discussed how all actions within the boat must be automatic so both crew and skipper can remain stress free during hectic times while performing manoeuvres.

Themed dinner:

This year's theme was the culture of Spain. The meal consisted of BBQ pork ribs, with salads and topped off with Mennonite-baked fruit pies. There was a questionnaire to test your knowledge of Spain and the Spanish culture that provided a great deal of entertainment when it came time to discuss the test results. Our native British team scored exceptionally well in their knowledge of Spain.

Sunday Regatta:

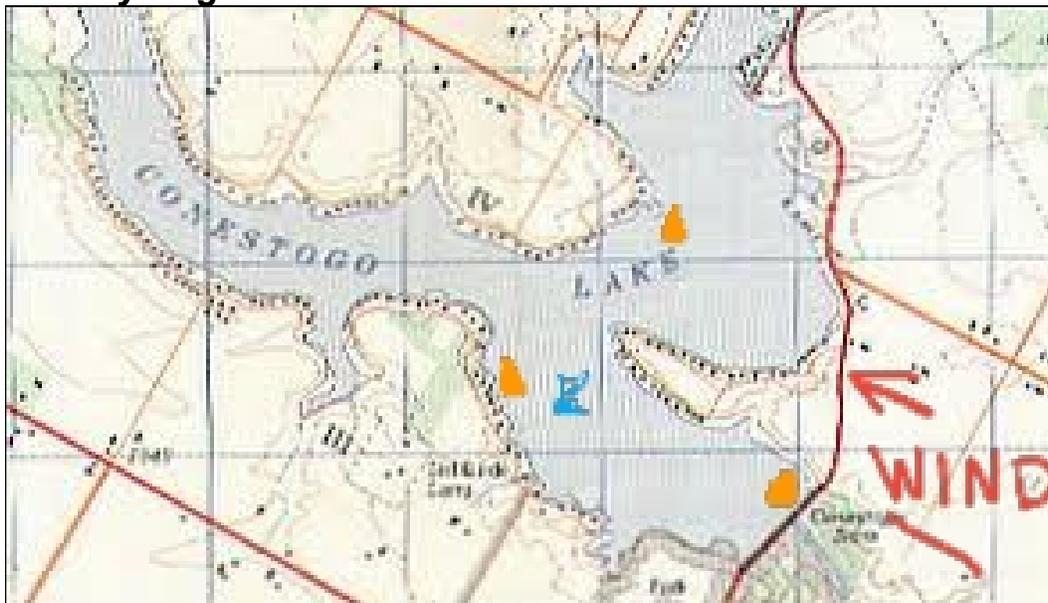


Fig. 1

Race committee was again the expert team of John and Alistair Martin. By 9:00 am, the wind was already up to 15 knots with gusts to 20 from the east. The course was twice around a lake-distorted triangle (see Fig. 1). The sailors soon learned that the wind was anything but steady in direction or velocity. Eleven of the thirteen registered boats came out for the first 2 races.

The first race quickly demonstrated that it was important to have your rigging in proper shape and to be ready for gusts and wind direction changes. Sue and Steph soon showed that being agile and prepared were the key requirements and handily won the first race.

The second race began in much the same manner. Again, being mindful of the wind sorted out the group with those that could read and prepare for the wind placing on top. This race was won by Mark and Julie with Sue and Steph right behind them.

After these two gruelling races that ran for around 50 minutes each, quite a few of the sailor retired to reduce the effects of the wind on their boats and bodies.



Fig. 2

For the remaining races, the course was shortened as shown in Fig. 2, still going around the course twice. The wind held in strength and direction, so these races were shorter in duration. David and Anne Pugh had most of their rigging issues under control and won the 3rd race. The skill and agility of Sue and Steph again earned them a second place finish.

For the 4th race, with now only 5 boats, clean starts and clean air earned Leo and Peter Draper their first win of the series.

The last race was much like the 4th, with Leo and Peter finishing first in that race with the Pughs coming in a very close second. This final win moved Leo and Peter past – by one point! - Sue and Steph who had gambled on sitting out the finale. This made Leo and Peter our Carling Trophy champions for 2018.

There was notable consistency in the team of Rob and Samantha Wierdsma earning them a 4th overall. Brian and Don Hickman continued improving their skills and placed 5th overall earning them the most improved designation.

Conestoga Sailing Club was happy to host this event and thank everyone for coming out.

