

The Columbia Sailing Club's oyster roast dinner on Saturday was over the top - it resembled a "Hotel California" style feeding frenzy at the oyster tables with oodles of assorted shrimp & side dishes available to fill you up inside the clubhouse after you worked up an appetite cracking open all dem oysters out in the parking lot!

The sailing was a different story. The junior sailors (Optimist Pram) sailed several races both days in the yacht club cove and seemed to enjoy themselves. The rest of us adult dinghy & keelboat sailors were frustrated by an inept race committee which ran a single 1-lap MWL race in light air on Saturday with no attempt to set a course at all on Sunday. RC missed the opportunity to attempt more races on Saturday due to schedule delays first with their registration & later with their course setting which then led to a lengthy postponement out on the water.

In that race on Saturday (which lasted over 2 hrs due to it's extreme length in the light air) my boat (with Missy Birkhimer aboard as crew) finished in third place behind Patrick Hopp (sailing with Alan Curtiss) from WCSC in 1st with Jimmy Yurko (sailing with his friend Joe) from SMSA in 2nd. Brett Auer (sailing with Jerry Thompson) beat us to the windward mark & then chased us around the rest of the course to nearly beat us to the finish when I stalled behind a row of scows sailing over the top of us just shy of the finish line.

On Sunday, Ray Dunn (sailing with his wife Dana) & I launched our Buccs and sailed out into the racing area while RC raised the AP over A signal flags ashore. We were determined to show the crowd that we could race in those light air conditions so we sailed around for an hour and a half practicing tacks, spinnaker sets and takedowns. We found the wind conditions out in the racing area on Sunday were actually better than what we had raced in on Saturday, so we credit RC with yet another lost racing opportunity. The regatta committee conducted the awards ceremony just as we hauled our boats out.

We mustered seven Buccs - in addition to the five boats already cited above, our other participants included John Chaplinsky (sailing with Johanna Curtiss) and Steve Ross (sailing with Carl Bartels).

Yaarr!  
Mike S.  
3687 - Ms'App

Re: [Bucc18] Midlands regatta wrap-up

I really enjoyed the trip to Columbia...beautiful place, great people...friendly club, easy & fun camping. RC left much to be desired, but a nice place, hopefully I'll be able to return in the future.

jimmy