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ROGUE YACHT CLUB

Tell Tales

June 2019

A Weekend at Whiskeytown

by Ted DeLong



A small but mighty band of RYC sailors journeyed to Whiskeytown Lake outside Redding on the weekend of May 24-26 for the Whiskeytown Sailing Club's annual Memorial Regatta. I had the privilege of crewing for Dick Barbara in his Lido 14, "Kotukuiti" (translation available upon request), while Sierra and Jesse Repp teamed up in Jesse's Coronado 15, "Beat Dick" (or so I'm told).

This event was the first since 2018's devastating Carr Fire, which reportedly burned 97% of the national park which surrounds Whiskeytown Lake. The WSC's home grounds at the Brandy Creek marina weren't yet open to the public, so the regatta headquarters

shifted to the rather more distant Oak Bottom Marina. Our friends at WSC staged a fine event under somewhat makeshift conditions and despite a tornado warning Friday night and a Saturday night thunderstorm, which may have led some competitors to bow out early. The racecourse was set in the center of the lake, which led to a lengthy sail out and back at the beginning and end of the day - a nice warmup in the morning but a long downwind trek in the afternoons.

Saturday was warm with light winds, which underwent what we learned was a classic Whiskeytown shift - starting the day from the west/northwest, and changing around midday to east/southeast. The field of competitors included a fleet each of Banshees and

Day Sailers, two mixed open centerboard classes, two mixed keelboat classes, and a mixed multi-hull class. The race committee kept up a steady pattern of rolling starts with little time to lose focus between the three races. Both of the RYC boats competed in one of the open centerboard classes, along with a Holder 15 and another Lido 14. Our class started concurrently with the Day Sailer class.

After Saturday night's rain put a premature end to the post-dinner fellowship, Sunday dawned gray, chilly, and drizzly. The race committee was stalwart, however, and those competitors who remained strapped on foulies and ventured out for three more trips around the marks. Winds and seas were higher than the day before and the brisk sailing led us to forget the dour weather, which gradually brightened by the time we sailed back to the marina. Each day, the winds had shifted to blowing straight into the launch ramp, which led to some hair-raising maneuvering and abrupt stops at the docks.

Perhaps the most dominant performance of the weekend was from Day Sailer skipper Steve Lowry of Richmond Yacht Club, who with his daughter Becky as crew recorded a perfect record of six first-place finishes.

Full regatta results are available [here](#), and pictures of the weekend are available [here](#) (look for Jesse & Sierra under sail number 3418 and Dick and I under sail number 4100).

It was a great weekend of sailing, although I for one was grateful to be able to rest up on Memorial Day before heading back to work... More adventures in far-flung waters are planned for later this summer, and if you're interested in sailing in another club's regatta feel free to reach out to rogueyachtclub@gmail.com to see if anyone else is planning to attend. More is always merrier!



Water Level Resources

Here's a list of various online lake level reporting sites and other resources.

- Bureau of Reclamation page on Howard Prairie Lake levels by [acre-feet](#).
 - Bureau of Reclamation page on Howard Prairie Lake levels by [elevation](#).
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