

## POP-UP Regatta Report, August 15<sup>th</sup> 2020, Burrows Park, Lake Mendota

The Mendota Yacht Club behind the efforts of Afan Ottenheimer and David Sebald decided a regatta should be organized in an effort to get some MC racing in during a time when our club suspends racing during originally scheduled ILYA championships with the hopes other clubs might have a need to attend a last- minute Covid aware regatta. As it turns out, many clubs DID race this weekend and our off-lake attendance did not pan out. We did hear there would be interest in our venue for events down the road.

What a day of sailing it turned out to be! Boats were rigged in rainy conditions, there was a brief postponement and the morning races got started around 11:30 by race officer Anna Ingeana with Don Sanford setting marks in a formidable 12-16 mph breeze from the NNW. The roster highlighted youngsters Billy and Mitch Fitton whose ages combined (15 and 12) was still less than a third of the eldest competitor. These lads beat the eventual event winner to the first mark in race #1 in challenging conditions.

The wind was brisk, wave sets were building and the course location allowed for interesting effects of wind curving out of Warner Bay around massive Maple Bluff menacingly close to the windward mark. For reasons unknown to this writer it paid big time getting close to the bluff, other times not so much. I wouldn't call it a regular oscillating wind pattern but there were big lines of breeze coming in from both the right and the left sides very randomly throughout the day. The sky cleared at lunch break, the wind died and then filled in mightily for races #3 and #4 (13-18 mph, gusts at our University weather buoy reaching 21 the one time we checked). It didn't take long for the waves to start building but they never became entirely unmanageable due to the northerly wind direction and our proximity to that shore.

Racing was extremely close and the lead changed regularly in nearly all races. At lunch break after two races 3 racers were tied with 4 points. The afternoon sailing was challenging and a couple boats split up their crews to sail with some of the lighter single-handed skippers. It didn't help Afan Ottenheimer any when his hiking stick failed completely in race three. A line tied to the tiller made it possible to hike out or bear off but leeward roundings got a little tricky. Every neck and neck downwind run, upwind tacking decision or boat handling skills at roundings or in general really mattered all the time. Any of the top three racers could easily have won the event. It came down to the last race. We all knew we had experienced a great full day of sailing when we kicked back at Burrows Park.

This was a good first effort for our club to host a regional MC regatta. We would like to communicate with the MCSA to see if there might be a warm water date that would serve as a good fit for a possible Mendota/Monona shared regatta...perhaps alternating lakes. Lake Mendota is such a great venue offering a bigger lake experience and Monona has it going on with its smaller size, shifty winds and beautiful capitol skyline views. Both lakes are within an hour or so of many Wisconsin sailors. Thanks to the MCSA for all the help that was provided...Fleet 69.

Name	boat #	race #1	race #2	race #3	race #4	total	place
Stefan Schmidt	2229	3	1	2	1	7	1
Timothy Elfenbein	2527	2	2	1	3	8	2
Afan Ottenheimer	2016	1	3	3	2	9	3
David Sebald	2663	4	4	4	4	16	4
Paige Fitton	2461	5	5	DNS	DNS	24	5
Billy & Mitch Fitton	1348	6	6	DNS	DNS	26	6

