

Sunfish Southwest Regionals – North

OK, we all lived through it... well all except a nefarious character known as The Weather Prophet. More about him later. The forecast for thunderstorms went up as high as 60% and down to as low as 10% over the 7 days preceding the regatta. The event was held in north Texas, so we knew that meant gully washers, frog stranglers, and trash movers... or hot and humid. We got hot and humid. The forecast wind was pretty consistent in the ballpark 5-10 out of the south or southeast. That is mostly what we got.

Turnout was very light as several regulars were unable to attend as they had lawns to mow or wives to water since they are going to the NAs in Alabama this week. A total of only 16 boats competed. Still, we had a great time and the regatta came off very well with C.P. Burks and his race crew pulling off 6 races over the two days and still getting us off the water with time to stow the boats and be ready for lunch (and awards) by about noon.

The first race was delayed as we waited for wind... any wind. Eventually we got going and the race was pretty darn close all the way through. During the first two races, David McCary, Jamey Rabbitt, Greg Gust, and Ellen Burks swapped around amongst each other for 1st-4th place and David apparently was too hot on one of the weather legs and decided to go for a swim while in the lead (which may explain why you do not see any 1s in his row on the score sheet.) Wind in races 1 and 2 was between 5 and 8 out



of the south, but with some occasional swings to southeast just to make things exciting.

After a break for lunch we went back out and sailed in 6-10 which had rotated more to the south east. It is interesting what a couple of mph of extra wind can do for a stickman vs a Clydesdale. There was a point at which going up wind I was about 2 boat lengths to windward and two boat lengths behind Jamey Rabbitt. I had my 6'3"+ frame down in the cockpit with my legs sticking out the leeward side and was having to scoot the part of my body with the most mass as hard against the leeward side of the cockpit as it would go, just to keep from heeling to windward. Jamey was hiked out with his knees right at deck edge and his body laid out flat. And, naturally he was moving right

off into the distance! It was not that he was in a streak of wind, and I was not. It was the 90 pound weight difference in an 8 - 10 mph bit of pressure. OK Jamey is also maybe a better skipper. Conditions were not great for a Clydesdale Division



competitor. However, Warren Fitzpatrick and Crawford Milling liked those conditions very much!

After the races and dinner, we dug out that Weather Prophet who was mentioned earlier. Even the stickmen, to whom I was giving 70 to 110 pounds (OK... Allison Chase was a stickchick), were not thinking kindly towards that nefarious and dastardly dude with his light and not lovely winds.



Greg Gust (green shirt), as the leader as of sundown on Saturday had the honor of taking the first whack at our nemisys, Weather Prophet.

Lots of folks has a go at the wretch and eventually he succumbed to the throng of sailor peasants with sticks and mallets and we all felt better about ourselves, the weather and our day of Al Gore End-of-Time sailing on a day which was, while hot, still about 10 degrees cooler than the previous record high for the date (set in 1911, well before either Bush or Cheney was born, much less in office and personally causing Global Warming).



Sunday morning there was enough wind to get us off and racing right on time. On the way out Ellen Burks decided to demonstrate her secret to going faster by surfing her 'fish on the wake of the committee boat. The wind was 4-5 when this picture was taken!

Then, bein' done bein' fixin' to get ready, the racing got underway.



Mary Medina (79319) timed her start perfectly and got off to a great start along with John Stewart (ends in a 4) and Crawford Milling (7920). As this race went on the wind gradually got lighter. Note that Greg, Jamey, and Ellen were not in that picture. Greg & Jamey recovered to take 1st and 2nd.

All this goin' good put a Big Texas Smile on Mary's Face!



The air got lighter and lighter as the final race progressed. I think I may be the boat on the right that is still trying to get to the windward mark! It got very light like this for



maybe 10 minutes then picked back up to 5-8 so we were able to finish the race, though your humble Clydesdale Correspondent managed to work his way up to 4th from last then back down to dead last between the time this picture was taken and the finish.



At left, Clydesdale 1 demonstrates the best way to put a Clydesdale in a Sunfish downwind in light air and keep the sails still. I demonstrated that from that position I can lower the centerboard with my foot, jibe, and then, using my feet again, raise the daggerboard using the same technique with minimal shaking of the boat (or for that matter with out having to wake up very much.)

At right, Mary Medina (79319), John Stewart (79344) and Vickie Stones (numbers must have fallen off from heat exhaustion) were among the throngs beating up on the Clydesdales at the finish of race 6.



Carlos Saavedra and Patsy Haines rounded out the field of people abusing the poor old horse in the last race of the event.



In the end with one throw-out the top finishers were:
Greg Gust (RCYC)



Jamey Rabbit (RCYC)



Ellen Burks (Arlington YC)



David McCary (SYC)



Allison Chase (RCYC)



Final Position	Name	Sail #	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Total
1	Greg Gust	31486	1	4	1	1	1	1	5
2	Jamey Rabbit	76913	2	1	3	5	2	2	10
3	Ellen Burks	79207	3	2	2	2	8	6	15
4	David McCary	80387	4	3	7	7	4	3	21
5	Allison Chase Warren	79694	10	7	4	6	5	4	26
6	Fitzpatrick	88640	5	9	6	3	6	7	27
7	Crawford Milling	874	9	5	5	4	7	8	29
8	John Stewart Marshall	79344	6	6	12	9	3	11	35
9	Woodson	80091	11	12	9	8	12	5	45
10	Mary Medina	79319	7	10	13	10	11	9	47
11	Don Bynum	79138	8	8	11	11	9	14	47
12	Vickie Stones		13	11	8	12	10	10	51
13	Carlos Saavedra	76696	15	13	10	13	13	12	61
14	Patsy Haines	7920	16	16	15	14	14	13	72
15	Gene Bryant	79193	12	16	14	DNS	DNS	DNS	76
16	Sheila Bryant	79194	14	14	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	79

Throw-out

Many of the pictures in this report are compliments of C.P. Burks. Way more of C.P.'s pictures are available at:

<http://dinghyone.smugmug.com/gallery/2997907#162543320>

The next regatta is at Austin... see NOR on the Texas Sunfish Circuit web pages that got you to this report.