

VERNON HAS STRONG SHOWING AT OWR

This spring a small group of women met and decided to resurrect Women Sailboat Racing out of the Vernon Yacht Club. So in May, nineteen women began training and racing on Thursday nights with the goal of attending the Okanagan Women's Regatta in West Kelowna Yacht Club on the July 4/5th weekend. Our goal was to send at least three boats to the regatta – two boats with mentors and one boat without. In order to encourage women out to race on sailboats, the women's regatta allows a male mentor (or coach) on board to assist should they run into problems. All of the mentored (or coached) boats run in one fleet. There is also a women only crewed PHRF fleet and woman only Santana fleet. By the end of the eight weeks of training, we had two mentored boats (Phoenix and Mystique) and one non-mentored boat for the Santana fleet (Captivator) ready to travel to West Kelowna Yacht Club.

The regatta weekend started off with an onshore boat race Friday night – and **Del Welsh** of VYC blew away her competition to take first place and win a bottle of rum. Saturday was hot and windy which meant the race committee was able to run 6 races. Saturday night we ate a delicious dinner prepared by WKYC then danced and partied to the McKinley's. Sunday morning we waited 90 minutes before we had enough wind to run one race then returned to the club house to await the results.

When the smoke had cleared, Captivator (**Carol Craske, Edie Doerksen, Cathy Appleby and Del Welsh**) placed first in the Santana Fleet; Mystique (**Colette Laplante, Daphne Reid, Genevieve Jackson, Mary Ann Petryshen with mentor, Lyle Enns**) placed first in the coached fleet and Phoenix (**Nancy Murphy, Heather Morel, Kate Stefanuk, Shelley English with mentor Keith Sangster**) placed third in the coached fleet. But the Vernon presence didn't end there for we had three VYC members crewing on Kelowna boats. We had **Pamela Miller** helming Holy Doodle, **Karen Fleming** crewing on Chaos and **Evelyn Dillabough** on Wy Wurrie. Way to go, Vernon!!

Now we could not have done this without a lot of help. **Keith Sangster, Lyle Enns and Don Craske** taught the fine art of racing on their boats. **Peter Barnes** lent his boat to me and my crew. **Peter Hirschmiller, Jamie Napier, Dan Cook** helped coach or run race committees. **Dave Horsham** filled in when Mystique was being repaired as a result of a Wednesday night accident. Thank you so much, your support is greatly appreciated!!

We would also like to thank the **West Kelowna Yacht Club** for hosting this regatta – they do a spectacular job. Not to mention **Aline Vance** and her committee who organized the regatta.

Next year our goal is to take honors in all three fleets!



Del Welsh winning the onshore boat race!



Captivator – first place in the Santana fleet.



Mystique – first place in the Coached fleet



Phoenix – third in the Coached Fleet