

2018 Women's Windup

Fantastic! That is the word to describe this year's racing season. We had ten wonderful weeks of mostly good winds which were lovely but did not prepare us for the winds of the regatta. On the regatta weekend, the lake was white caps from side to side. Was it just me or did everyone have to take a few days to recover after that weekend? I think my boat decided to take the oldest and most out of shape person on board and place her in the pit to handle all of the halyard raises. After the first race, I thought I'm not going to make it! I think I will return to the helm, it is much easier there! But I was proud of you all - you did battle. We may not have won the war but we had our small victories. Congratulations to **Phoenix** who placed second in the coached fleet and Kerri on **Always Something** who placed second in the PHRF fleet. As there were two Vernonites on Always Something (Karen and Pamela) we are claiming the boat as from Vernon.

Now even though our winds were good and relatively gentle in our weekly series, that did not mean we didn't have our excitement out there. Mystique was the talk of our bridge group the following Thursday when a fellow bridge player who was on an outrigger canoe reported their encounter with Mystique on Tuesday. According to her they were just out practicing with a new helmsperson when this BIG boat came upon them. They paddled as fast as they could but did not know which way to turn and the boat was soooooooooo BIG. But with Genevieve's helming and Lyle's coaching, Mystique safely manoeuvred past the canoes. I think they will think twice about doing battle with us in the future.

We had a number of rookies this year. The definition of a rookie for our purposes is a woman who has not raced with our group before. Our numbers are growing slowly - I like to think of it as quality over quantity. And I like to think we got the cream of the crop when I read the glowing reports from your skippers - words like fast, athletic, quick learner, a real asset, dependable, reason for our success were all used. We have **Debbie** on Phoenix, **Sue** on Captivator, **Janine** on Mystique, **Kirsten** on Gypsy Soul, **Pam K.** on Chaos. I had the difficult job of choosing her. I really couldn't decide on one Rookie of the Year so everyone won and received a small momento of their first year.

We had three teams this year who made major changes this year. Ayesha and Gypsy Soul moved from coached to non coached while Mystique had a

crew member step up to helming. These are all major accomplishments. Congratulations to Cathy on Ayesha, Daphne on Gypsy Soul and Genevieve on Mystique! They were all presented with their **BIG GIRL PANTS!**

The **Boat of the Year Award** was presented to **Phoenix** for her second place finish the OWR. Well done Nancy and team!

The OWR was held in Kelowna this year and although no Vernon boat came in first we did not leave without making our mark on the occasion. One boat, I am not saying who, made contact with the committee boat on the last race of the regatta and left evidence of our attendance. And one Vernon sailor was seen dangling off the bow of her boat while the skipper was trying to leave the dock. This earned **Kimberly Gilhooly -the Missing the boat award.**

The last award of the evening was the **Debbie Gittins Award.** Keith Sangster presented this award and I am honoured, that I (Carol Craske) received this award.

I would like to thank our coaches - **Keith Sangster, Lyle Enns and Peter Barnes.** Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you to **Peter Hirschmiller, Doug Fleming** and my husband, **Don Craske** for running the committee boat. We hope you all will be back next year.

Now the overall series winners:

For the non coached fleet aka Nutfree fleet we have

1. Chaos beating by one point
2. Ayesha
3. Little Miss Magic
4. Gypsy Soul

In the coached fleet

1. Mystique
2. Captivator
3. Phoenix

Our second to last award is the **Boat of the Year Award**. The winner of this award is chosen by the previous year's winner. The crew of Ayesha sat down and felt that this boat showed dedication, enthusiasm and perseverance for the sport. They demonstrated a positive attitude at all times but mostly showed a big improvement this year going from last place in the weekly series to a second place finish in the Okanagan Women's Regatta. Congratulations Phoenix!

Now our last award. This award was started last year in memory of our dear friend and fellow sailor, Debbie Gittins. I will now have Keith come up and present it.