

2019 Windup

Well, that is a wrap. The 2019 VYC Women's racing series is over for the year. We had seven boats out on Tuesdays - three coached boats and four women only boats for a total of 32 women and 3 male coaches participating. Thank you to Peter Hirschmiller and Doug Fleming who manned the race committee boat every week and during our mini regatta. We could not have done it without you. It is amazing to see the improvement in our sailing skills. A few years ago we wouldn't have attempted to go out on those windy Tuesdays but not this year, we didn't miss a week. Mother Nature gave us light winds in the month of May but during June we encountered wind every week sometimes gusting to 30 km. After 15 races Mystique coached by Lyle Enns and helmed by Kate Stefanuk ended first in the coached fleet. In the women only fleet after a hard fought battle, Captivator (helmed by Cathy Appleby) emerged the victor. Full race results can be found on the club's webpage under Sailing then Okanagan Women.

For the season finale we held a mini regatta followed by a dinner and dance. Even though it rained cats and dogs for the two days before the regatta, Mother Nature came through with sun and wind on the day of the regatta. Some of the sailors were sporting sun burns afterwards and the race committee was able to run five races. The club prepared a delicious BBQ -well done Corinne, Jay and staff, your help is always appreciated. Thank you to Liam and his band The Spendthrift for playing at the windup party. If you have not been to a ladies regatta, they know how to let off steam after a day on the water! Kudos to Chanel who manned the bar on Tuesdays and the kitchen staff who prepared the Tacos on taco Tuesday.

Congratulations to Pam St Pierre for winning the Debbie Gittins Trophy. Debbie was one of founding members of our little group of sailors. She was a wonderful sailor and helmed Phoenix. In 2017 the Debbie Gittins Award was created and is given annually to the Vernon sailor who exhibits perseverance, commitment, enthusiasm, determination, love of sailing, and joy of competitiveness. It is a honour to receive this award. Well done, Pam! Congratulations to Varua for winning the Boat of the Year Award and to Kate for winning the Drama Queen Award. Ask Kate what she did to win this award! Was it the slight altercation with the committee boat?!

This year's awards were created by Dave Horsham. They are little sailboats approximately 4 inches high. Only 40 were built so are a limited edition. They can be hung on your Christmas tree or sit on your desk to remind you that sailing season is just around the corner. Well done

Dave and Thank you!



The success of this year's sailing season is due the enthusiasm and commitment of the women and the coaches. So a big Thank you to the coaches (Lyle, Keith and Don) and to Peter Barnes for the loan of Captivator. She did you proud. Thank

- you to Edie who helped me with the windup party. She sacrificed herself to go on a wine tasting trip so that she could chose the best wines for our door prizes. Now that is dedication!

On the weekend of July 13/14, the 12th annual Okanagan Women's Regatta was held at West Kelowna Yacht Club. Three of our boats - Little Miss Magic, Mystique and Phoenix - made the trip down the lake. We like to think that Always Somethin' helmed by Kerri Hardisty (who raced with us on Tuesdays on Chaos) and crewed by Pamela Miller and Karen Fleming (both VYC members) is also a Vernon boat. After a slow start on Saturday where the winds were almost non existent, the sailors let off their steam to the music of the McKinleys after a dinner ofwait for it..... Tacos (10 weeks of Taco Tuesdays was not enough)!! West Kelowna Yacht Club did an excellent job of keeping everyone fed and hydrated. By the end of the weekend, Vernon boats dominated the coached fleet with Mystique coming in first and Phoenix second. Always Somethin' won the non coached fleet. Well done everyone!

Plans are underway for next year's Woman Racing Series with the news that another boat will be joining the non coached fleet bringing our little group to a total of eight boats. If you are interested in joining us, watch for our notice in the spring.



Pam St Pierre receiving the Debbie Gittins Award 2019 from Keith Sangster. Picture by Tracy Lutz-Noel.



Pamela Miller receiving the Boat of the Year Award 2019 from Maureen Soichuk. Picture by Tracy Lutz-Noel.



Lyle retrieving spinnaker halyard! OOPS! Picture by Keith Sangster



Phoenix at the OWR - L to R Marie, Debbie, Sue, Maureen, Keith



Always Somethin' - L to R Sue, Pamela, Kerri, Karen, Sandra

Mystique L to R - Diana, Sandra, Kate, Lyle, Darla

