

Washington Lake Association
12th Annual Regatta – 2012, Saturday, August 18, 2012
Summary Report
By Commodore Bob Craven, August 23, 2012

Note: Race Results and Awards are on separate sheet.

The WLA 12th Annual Regatta for sailboats, sunfish, kayaks and canoes was held in conjunction with the Annual Potluck Supper Saturday, August 18, 2012. This year's Regatta classes were: Sunfish, Sailboat – Open Class, Kayak Singles, Kayak Junior Singles (under 16 years on Regatta date), Kayak Doubles, Canoe Doubles and Canoe Families (more than 2 persons).

The weather for this year's Regatta was perfect: sun, blue sky, warm temperature and brisk, but not too heavy wind. This fine weather made for a great fun-filled event for all participants and spectators. This year, we had 38 skippers and crew and 24 boats, numbers that were down significantly from last year's 52 skippers and crew and 36 boats. This year's Regatta and Potluck Supper were held on almost the same date as last year's (Saturday, August 20). Originally, we had planned to hold the Regatta and Potluck Supper on August 11, a week earlier, hoping that an earlier date would get a larger turnout. However, we found out that this earlier date conflicted with the Washington Meeting House 225th Anniversary Celebration. Assuming no major schedule conflicts, I think that we should hold the Regatta and Potluck a week earlier next year (Saturday, August 10, 2013, rain date: August 17) to see if an earlier date does get a greater turnout.

This year's Race Committee consisted of Commodores Bob Craven, Phil Budne and Steve Robey, Mike and Jean Kluk, Pat Reilly and Brian and Claire Sardinkas. The Regatta organization and operation went very smoothly. Steve Robey provided the Committee Boat, which monitored all aspects of the races, including boat finish order. Claire Sardinkas and Henrietta Kilborn operated the Chase Boat; they recorded race numbers of boats as they finished and provided a redundant record to compare with the Committee Boat's record, in order to resolve any finish order ambiguities. Brian and Christine Sardinkas manned the Safety Boat to provide assistance to any boat requiring it.

The Race Committee was particularly gratified that all boats left the finish area after they finished the race and refrained from crossing the finish line multiple times, as they had been requested to do. Having boats clear the finish area immediately after finishing the race really helped reduce finish order confusion, and materially helped the Race Committee determine the correct boat finish order. Many thanks to all skippers and crews for honoring this request!

I thank everyone who has helped through the years to make the Regattas successful and fun-filled events. Particular thanks go to: my fellow Commodores Phil Budne and Steve Robey; our experienced and very capable registration team: Mike and Jean Kluk, Pat Reilly and Julie Craven; Jim Bissonnette for always putting up his regatta flags, which provided a festive air in the WLA picnic area; the Sardinkas clan for willingly providing boat and manpower help as needed; my sons Chris and Chip for always being around to pull up the racing buoys and their cement block anchors after the Regatta.

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Also special thanks to WLA President Mike and Cheryl Morrissette for giving me a nice basket of goodies and a beautiful framed Regatta picture, which I will treasure always.

Since I have been the Regatta organizer and chief Commodore for the past 12 years, and I am now almost 79 years old, it seems like a good time for me to retire and turn this job over to a younger and more energetic person. Pat Reilly has expressed a willingness to help organize the Regatta and to handle all or most of the paperwork. However, so far I have not found anyone willing to assume overall responsibility for the Regatta. I will work with the WLA Board to find someone to take over this job. (Anyone willing to take over the job of Regatta organizer should contact the WLA Board and me to go over what's involved.)

I thank everyone who has worked with me to help make the WLA Regattas so successful and so much fun for so many over the years. It has been a rewarding experience for me personally to see so many youngsters and adults who have improved their sailing and paddling skills as a result of having participated in past WLA Regattas.

I should note that it was Jean Kluk, then WLA President, who, back in 2000 had the idea that the WLA should have an annual regatta. She knew that I had sailing experience, and suggested that I should organize this event. Because Jean is such a pleasant and persuasive person, I simply could not find it within myself to turn her down. So I became Commodore!

Now your Commodore will assume his new status of Commodore Emeritus and repair to the Commodore's Deck where old Commodores go, and perhaps with a libation in hand, will now immerse himself in many pleasant memories of Regattas past.....