

LOWER LAKE HURON SOLO CHALLENGE 11 SEPTEMBER 2010

We had 17 entries this year, down from the 20 of last year. If it were not for 4 new entries participation would have really been down. Jeff Neuhalfen was the only sailor to make the long trek up the St. Clair River to participate. Conflict with the DSA Fall Series championship prevented at least one down river regular from attending. Eternal entrant Dave Evans was tied up with a family commitment..if you can believe!

The weather forecast for Saturday was for a cloudy day with 10 to 15 knot winds from the SE turning to S later in the day. Perfect!

The first leg of the race was a run up to R12. After rounding the mark the wind picked up to more like 15 to 20 knots with a point of sail between a close haul and a close reach. No problem laying the buoy at Kettle Point. Conditions really suited the heavier boats that could keep full sails up. Many of the lighter boats put in reefs to prevent severe doses of rounding up. Just about all sailors' hand steered for the majority of the race.

By the time the boats were rounding the Kettle Point buoy, the wind had gone more to the south so the leg back to the finish was more of the same,,,,,fast!

The first one to cross the finish line was Cheryl Cameron on *C-Spray* at 14.22. Those further down the fleet were faced with dark black clouds of a front coming in from the west, as they approached the finish line. There was a lot of finger crossing and hope of getting across the finish before the inevitable dump of rain, and whatever else, hit those still out there.

The last boat finished just after 1700 hrs, making it the fastest race that anyone could remember. Most boats were back in the marinas before the really heavy rain came and the few caught out there just had rain to deal with. No big wind shift and the rain flattened the lake.

With the very early finish, the Après Sail party got underway earlier than usual and was the usual relaxed, cozy discussion about the days trials and tribulations

Special congratulations go to first time entry winners Todd Quick sailing a Cheoy Lee 48, maybe the biggest boat to sail the race? and Ken Colborne who was an addition to the "newly formed" C&C 35 Mk1 one-design fleet.

Special thanks go out to:

- Sarnia Yacht Club for the use of their facilities

- The finish line committee:
- **Maureen for organizing the food.**
- All the others who contributed in one-way or another
- And last but no means least all of you who took up the challenge to compete

Mark Gutteridge



Approaching R12. Foreground L to R: *Gale Runner*, *C-Spray*, *Gong Show*. *Spirit* is rounding the mark (seen just to the right of *Gale Runner*'s mast). *Sparkle* sailing away from mark at far right of picture. *Lexann* is ahead, out of picture.



Dave Kember on *BOLT* immediately after rounding R12. He is at the bow tidying up after making a sail change during the rounding. The top of his head can just be seen behind the pile of sails.



Ominous clouds coming in from the west greet the fleet as they approach the finish. Most boats managed to cross the line before the heavens opened.



Enjoying the Après Sail. L to R. Dave Clift, Harold Beaton, Sandy Stronach And Marianne Clift



First time entrant Todd Quick receives his first place flag in Spinnaker A class from Mark Gutteridge



Mark presenting Jeff Neuhalfen with his first place flag in Spinnaker B



Another first time entrant, Ken Colborne receives his flag for Finishing First in JAM A class



JAM B winner, Tom Hughes receiving his flag from Mark.



Serious study of the results following the awards.