

Wow, what a wacky day! The breeze was anywhere from 20 to 3 knots, coming from the N/NE and shifting through about 30 degrees. This put the easterly waves at an angle to the wind, causing a number of capsize on the runs. The able race committee banged off *nine* races, resulting in some tired sailors, including yours truly!

Because of the radical shifts, one end of the line or the other was often quite favored. I usually went for it at whatever end was favored. If one didn't have a good start one could make up huge distance by just staying in the easy-to-see puffs and on the favored tack--heads-up sailing definitely was the order of the day!

I seldom made it to the weather mark first but seemed to get the boat pointing to the next mark quicker than many. This proved the downfall of speedy John Bainton, who rounded the top mark first at least twice, but got a little lost on the second legs when in front.

Just like the beats, the runs were marked by large velocity & direction changes. I tried to play the oscillating shifts downwind by sailing by-the-lee on starboard when rounding in a lift, then either gybing over or more often heading up on starboard to catch the occasional big swell back to the middle of the course.

The final beats were often quite skewed--those who recognized the situation early made huge gains. The RC corrected the course as the day went on, resulting in some fascinating, tactical action in the up-down-all-around conditions.

Have to admit I love sailing in wacky winds and often managed to drag myself up through the fleet for a consistent set of scores. Brendan Shattuck joined the fleet for the first time and announced his return to Lasers (after a 3 year hiatus) with two wins and a decisive second place overall finish. Derek Jackson rounded out the Top 3 with a steady set of scores.

Marc Jacobi
MarcJacobiRE@aol.com