

October 2010



Franks Place

'Fantastic' is the only way to describe the change from dead calm to very breezy on our Sept. 24th race day. We were all patiently waiting for some wind but around noon there was a steady breeze at 5 mph out of the South so I laid out a longish course. It was from the start/finish line to the fish/game island 5 mph buoy then around Silcox Island to Thorne Castle and back to finish. I figured... about an hour to complete and each boat did so albeit Bye-Gone was a bit slower. As the breeze was fading I thought 'let's do it again'. Then thought better of my first choice and opted for our usual triangular course between Silcox Island and the Eastern shore of American Lake. As we were all getting ready for the 5 minute horn whoosh and

breeze blasted in from the South. No one seemed to have seen it coming and we all scrambled to adjust our sheets to compensate for this sudden burst. And... it made that 2nd race much more fun, with all skippers knowing how important the start is on such a short course. And the finish was much closer as well. With that in mind I decided to repeat that course in race #3 which was just as much fun. Of course these races lasted no more than twenty minutes leaving us time for another race. Some skippers lobbied for a long course (obviously) to help them improve their finish positions. I capitulated! Off we went to fish/game again only this time back downwind to the Willow tree buoy and back. (Done in a little over 1/2 hours). All done by 3-3:30. We had a short social hour and everyone (very satisfied) headed home. A very nice day.

Special thanks to Ron for crewing with me on Bye Gone! Results follow!

September Race Results

			Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4		Race Day Totals	
<i>Skipper/Crew's Name</i>	<i>Boat's Name</i>	<i>HCP</i>	<i>Corrected Time/Position</i>	<i>Corrected Time/Position</i>	<i>Corrected Time/Position</i>	<i>Corrected Time/Position</i>	<i>Over all Score</i>	<i>Over all Position</i>	<i>Monthly Score</i>
Layne	<i>Firefly</i>	96.1	59.04 / 1	15.40 / 5	12.07 / 3	35.83 / 3	12	3	80
Andy	<i>MDB</i>	97	63.20 / 2	10.34 / 1	DNF / 5	34.43 / 2	10	1	100
Scott/ Bill	<i>Wild Juan</i>	97	65.39 / 3	10.90 / 3	13.87 / 4	34.40 / 1	11	2	90
Clifford	<i>Oasis</i>	97	DNF / 5	11.16 / 4	10.57 / 1	36.32 / 4	14	5	60
Frank	<i>Bye Gone</i>	102	71.81 / 4	10.86 / 2	11.93 / 2	39.25 / 5	13	4	70



Next races Oct. 30th (one day before Halloween). Costumes are optional. Those so attired will get one minute off their time in each race. Those in DRAG (real drag queens) get two minutes off their time. A prize will be awarded for best outfit.

Extra special thanks to Scott, myself, and Stephen Knutson for Cap'n Cook repair done on Sept. 4th. The inside ceiling was stabilized... Rodney's broken window was repaired, and the mounting platform for our Cap'n James Cook sign was installed. Still looking for people to paint (white) the outside of the building.

See you on the water. Frank.

Layne's Race Report

I was looking forward to our races in September with excitement. I had been looking at the race day weather forecasts for over a week and it looked like it was going to be another great sailing day. I called James, my usual crew member; early in the week to see if he was going to be able to make it. However, he said that he had to work that day...bummer. So I then called a couple of other friends who had wanted to try going sailing on *Firefly* during summer and asked if they wanted to try racing and struck out...everyone was busy. On a long shot, I called my daughter, Breanna, and asked her but she had to work her usual Saturday shift. I even broke down and asked my son, Riley (who hates sailing and everything else) and was flatly turned down. Finally, my wife Gena, agreed that she would come crew for me on race day.



When we arrived at the American Lake I was a little disappointed because there was no wind and the lake was like a mirror. We rigged the boat and headed for Capt'n Cook. As we were sailing down the lake we were moving so slow that I broke out the paddle out. A little later we saw Clifford, on *Oasis*, out the putting up his spinnaker so we decided to try *Firefly's* spinnaker too. There was just enough breeze to keep the kite filled. Gena had a hard time putting up the spinnaker pole. You see, she had fallen earlier in the month and hurt her shoulder and was in a lot pain trying to lift the pole up to the ring. When we arrived at Capt'n Cook she staged a small mutiny and said that I would have to sail by myself for the day and she was staying on the dock with Carolyn. Gena's mutiny didn't bother me that much because the winds were so light, *Firefly* would be faster without the extra weight.

In the first race, the course was set with a long downwind run around Silcox Island to Thorne Castle. That is a great spinnaker run and I was bummed being crewless having only rarely flown the spinnaker alone. *Firefly* got off to a decent start right behind Andy in *MDB* with Clifford in *Oasis* following along in third place. By the time the group reached the windward mark *MDB* was still in the lead with *Firefly* rounding in second. Clifford must have had some sort of course misunderstand because after rounding the mark he took of heading down the inside side of Silcox Island.



MDB, Oasis, and Wild Juan during race #1

Clifford wasn't the only one with course problems; there were several boats with course misunderstandings during the day. However, Clifford did have *Oasis's* spinnaker up and flying on that downwind leg...way to go Clifford! On the downwind leg *MDB* continued to keep her lead over *Firefly*. Andy and I were close enough that we were talking to each other, but I couldn't overtake *MDB* so I decided that I would set the spinnaker. I thought that Andy was going to die with laughter as I was putting the pole up with *Firefly* sailing sort of a zig-zag pattern. As I let go of my tiller while I ran up to the mast to set the pole the boat turned windward and somehow the topping lift got fouled around the ring. I ran back to the tiller and straightened the boat out then ran up to the mast again to unfoul the topping lift... again with the boat turning windward. I need either a longer tiller extension or a

tiller tamer to keep the rudder centered. I finally got the pole set, kite up and was starting make small gains on the windward side of *MDB* but Andy protecting his position kept on luffing up to the point that the spinnaker useless. So I tried passing on the leeward side only to have the wind blocked by Andy's sails. *Firefly* finally got some clean air and I was able to pass *MDB*. Once I got the spinnaker set it wasn't too bad flying it solo, I even gybed the spinnaker once on the downwind run and had no problems taking the kite and pole down. It was well worth the effort to put the spinnaker up because I made huge gains over the rest of the fleet. *Firefly* was the first to round the windward mark and was able keep her lead to cross the finish line first with *MDB* coming in second and Scott in *Wild Juan* crossing third.

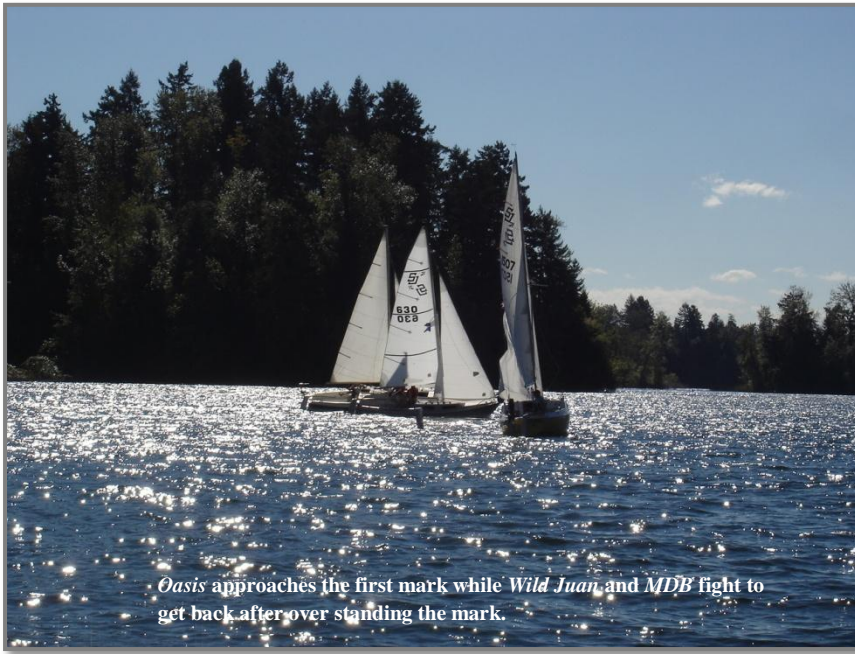
There was Snipe sailboat with three people on board sailing around American Lake. In between the first and second race I went over and talked to them and invited the come join us in our next race. They declined but the guy at the helm said that used to be a member of club. He said that he was part of the crew that originally built Capt'n Cook. I thought that was cool and it would have been fun racing against a Snipe. I never did catch the guy's name.

The second race was very exciting. I think that there were 5 lead changes during the race. The winds were so light before the start; Frank decided to shorten the course to the triangle one between Silcox Island and Bill's Boathouse. Shortly before the five minute horn went off there were some weird microburst downdrafts that hit the lake suddenly and caught all of us off guard. I thought for sure that I was going over. I had one rail deeply buried in the water before easing the main and turning windward. Gena, watching from the dock thought that I was going over too. She said the mainsail hit the water. There were a couple of those big gusts of winds came through that made me wished that I had crew for help with sheets and ballast. Scott in *Wild Juan* and Andy in *MDB* and myself in *Firefly* all got off to good starts which is very important on the short course.



Tight start of race #2 with building winds

Wild Juan was going very well and would have made to the windward mark first, but for some reason Scott kept going towards the first mark of the prior race! *MDB* made it around the windward mark first with *Firefly* following closely behind. At the second mark *MDB* was ahead but *Firefly* had an inside overlap as we approached the mark and I was able to pull ahead. *Firefly* made her way around the leeward mark first with *MDB* rounding next. Shortly after rounding the mark I hit a dead spot and lost the lead. Andy on *MDB* caught some good wind and took over the lead. Then disaster struck on *Firefly*...somehow during the tack the jib sheet



Oasis approaches the first mark while *Wild Juan* and *MDB* fight to get back after over standing the mark.

got fouled really badly in the boom bang. I had to luff up and it took a little while to get the lines straighten out and the boat going again. During that time, the rest of the fleet over took me... dang! Andy, in *MDB*, ended up taking first place with Frank in *Bye-Gone* coming in second and Scott in *Wild Juan* taking third place.

There was more excitement for the third race, even though I got an awful start on *Firefly*. I was approaching the starting line on a port tack just leeward of Clifford on *Oasis* and I thought I saw out of the corner of my eye *Oasis* tacking over to the starboard side. I decided to tack too, however Clifford hadn't tacked and I was headed right towards him so I stopped mid-way through the tack and ended up stuck in the irons. It took quite awhile to get

Firefly going again while the rest of the fleet was making their way to the first mark. Once again Scott on *Wild Juan* who was in the lead was head for the wrong mark. However this time Andy in *MDB* was windward of *Wild Juan* and kept on waiting for Scott to tack back to the mark, but Scott never tacked and both boats sailed way past the windward mark. Scott said that he for some reason he had in mind that we were doing the first long race course. While Andy and Scott were trying to get back to the right mark, everyone else passed them. Andy took a DNF on the race and Scott, being a good sport, was way off the pace after doing his 720 degree turns. Clifford in *Oasis* takes first place in race three, with Frank in *Bye-Gone* taking second again, and *Firefly* came in third.

For the last race of the day a longer course was set. *MDB* made it around the windward mark first with *Wild Juan* and *Firefly* following closely behind. On the downwind leg *Firefly* managed to overtake both boats and reached the leeward mark first. However, after rounding the mark I got distracted while waving at some kids on a nearby dock and when I went to trim my jib and found that the stopper knot had come un-tied and the sheet had come unthreaded out of the block. While I was re-rigging my boat I was pass by both *Wild Juan* and *MDB*. The lesson learned here is always keep focused. Scott went on to win the race with Andy coming in second and myself taking third.



Downwind leg of race #4...*MDB* holding off *Wild Juan* and *Firefly*

It was a fun day of racing. The cool thing about the races last month was there was no one boat dominating and winning all the races. Each race had a different winner. If you look at the total scores, all the boats were just one point apart. It was tight racing all day long.

We are getting to the end of you racing season and there are just two more chances to earn points for the Boat of the Year award. Here are the top standings of the regular participating boats with total scores from January –September.

Firefly	890
Wild Juan	790
Bye-Gone	720

Oasis 660
Missfit 465
MDB 395
Elvira 330

With at least 200 points left in the year I think that there are still several boats mathematically still in the running.

Our next race is on October 30th and once again it is going to be a costumed race. So start thinking about what you are going to wear. I can tell you right now that I'm not going to dress in drag this year...I'm still pulling hair from the wig that I wore last year out from my blocks!!! So see you next month with your costumes.

Layne

September Race Photos



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Any articles, pictures, or ideas of any sailing activities you are involved in that you would like to contribute to the newsletter are welcome.

Website <http://www.sailnut.com/american-lake-sailing-club>

Next Race October 30th