

The Atlanta Gone with the Wind regional regatta report:

By Skip Allen

Sixteen skippers from California, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina converged in Atlanta this past weekend for the 2010 edition of the Gone With the Wind Regatta. Typical spring weather in Atlanta included sunny blue skies, blossoming dogwoods, pollen clouds flowing across the lake and of course variable winds in every possible direction. Two sailing courses situated perpendicular to one another allowed instant course changes as needed.

Saturday's schedule began with the normal skipper's meeting information and then protest guidelines from Rick West and Tom Germer to be used at this regatta and possibly at others on the EC12 circuit. Great information was passed on that almost totally eliminated arguments while racing on the lake.

Saturday's winds were light but shifty. Moving between courses was easy, but, it didn't give the skippers a chance to become familiar with constant sailing routes. Saturday afternoon concluded with sixteen heats being completed. Gerry Cobby and John Bottensek were the big leaders that day. Gerry, sailing his new boat, finished the day with six first places and six seconds. John B finished the day with five first places and four seconds. Gerry was ahead of John B by only one point. Thirty-nine points behind John B was Chris Kakavas followed by Tom Germer and Rick West.

Dinner that evening was hosted by the Allen family. As noted in the Notice of Race, they attempted a low country boil in the Atlanta hills. Twenty seven people dared to populate the Allen's back yard deck and enjoyed the drinks, snacks and the low country boil in the hills. Dick Gerry, the original EC12 low country boiler, gave his thumbs up for the adventure.

Sunday at the lake started the same as Saturday. However, the winds never really came up except for a few teasers near the end of the regatta. Racing began at 9:15 and by 11:00, we were only able to complete four heats. Slow racing sometimes turned into drifting racing. Drifting racing turned into raft racing. At that point, the RD called for one more race and, thank goodness, the winds came up for that final start. Gerry and John B continued to dominate Sunday's heats with momentary acts of glory from Tom Germer, Tony Shoaf and Scott Vernon. At 11:40 with the wind dying again, the 2010 Gone With the Wind Regatta was called.

Many thanks go to the skippers and crew that took the time to drive to and through the Atlanta traffic this weekend. It was a pleasure hosting this event and we hope that you had a good time too!

Good luck the rest of this season!

The Atlanta Model Yacht Club

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| 1. Gerry Cobby | 40 |
| 2. John Bottensek | 48 |
| 3. Chris Kakavas | 89 |
| 4. Tom Germer | 100 |
| 5. Tony Shoaf | 111 |
| 6. Rick West | 117 |
| 7. Scott Vernon | 129 |
| 8. Eric Olson | 131 |
| 9. Tom Phillips | 136 |
| 10. Jim Donohoe | 158 |
| 11. Mervin Jones | 170 |
| 12. Dick Gerry | 207 |
| 13. Jerry Fernald | 221 |
| 14. Jim Rutherford | 238 |

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| 15. Rodney Leathers | 254 |
| 16. Chris Priecheufried | 295 |