Race Commander Report May 21, 2018

Turnback Saturday racing was relatively straightforward - decent winds, not much motorboat traffic. First finisher at 13:58 (Ethan Froelich on a F18 class Hobie Tiger catamaran), for Elapsed Time of 3:32. Last finisher at 16:38 for an ET of 6:13. For Sunday, the PRO wisely decided to move everyone down the lake, to start at mile marker 21. Even with this shorter course, there was not enough wind, and so the race was shortened for keelboats at mile 14 and multihulls at 12. The last boat was finished at 4pm on Sunday. Turnback is a challenging race, for both RC and the competitors, there is really no way to race a whole fleet to Lago Vista and back without it being a challenge. Keelboats with motors graciously towed other competitors, chase boats handed out water & Gatorade, RC volunteers stayed out on the water until the last boat was in the harbor, and we even had some extra volunteers come out to tow boats back. At our next PRC meeting, we will review & make recommendations, for next year's event. On the plus side for Sunday, there was noticeably less motorboat traffic on the lake, since the race was earlier than the traditional Memorial Day weekend. The temporary buoys at the major "corners" of the course will definitely be included. (Lack of) VHF radio communication among RC boats spread so far, is definitely a concern. Keeping track of first in class/last in class, to consider when & where to shortening, is vital. RaceQS?

Late Spring Series included 2 weekends of "abandoned" races. First weekend had no wind, and the last weekend had too much rain. For the 2 weekends we did race, we had 55 boats (down from 59 in Frostbite & 76 for Spring series), but an on-line average of 42 boats (up from 38 for Spring series). Since the last race was a rainout, and everyone was leaving to go home, we didn't have time for trophies, which will be handed out at Luau.

With several PRC members traveling extensively this summer, and 2 others with health issues, I have recruited Terry Schertz to join PRC, and will be making a motion to officially "add" her as a PRC member. There may be other additions as the year progresses.

We have had several requests to provide another RC training for fleet members. Several fleets still need some additional experience among their members, in order to provide good outcomes on race days.

James Bland provided "chase boat training" to several members. We'll continue to do this as needed.

Jim Casto