

Race Commander Report

July 26th, 2018

Dog Days Series participation has dropped a little as the heat increased, but we are still averaging 33 boats on the line. An excellent meal for the mid-series break was welcomed, and we look forward to an excellent social event at the conclusion of the series this Saturday 28th. Once again Keith Denebeim has arranged for trophies, and they have been a real hit.

Equipment usage has been high, and eventually our equipment needs maintenance. Chase1 needed steering replaced, thank to Tom & volunteers including Pat Feagin and Kurt Carson, it is now back on line. Chase 2 had a fuel problem Saturday, leaving Ensign fleet with only one chase boat for the Series race. I was very impressed with how PRO James Bland, and volunteers like Bill Hawk, Tom Groll, George Dahmen and Fred Ford made the necessary adjustments, and kept the races on schedule in spite of missing resources.

RC Training : I have submitted a FUR for an RC training day Saturday Sept 8th, the day before our fall sailing season starts. We hope to provide additional needed training to our fleets, to improve the performance of our RC duty fleets. This will include timing & flags, fleet course selection & length, recording, and chase boat skills. I encourage all fleet captains to send 2 representatives, and I will be asking all newly joined members in 2018 to attend. Even 35-year veteran racers can benefit, from a review of AYC Series RC protocol.

Protests : we are blessed with a lot of Corinthian spirit at AYC, and we seldom have acrimonious protests from our Series races. I was honored to serve recently on a protest committee for 2 members who had an incident on the starting line, with damage. Although the port-starboard situation was quite clear, it was a valuable lesson for the skippers, neither of whom had been through a protest of any kind. I believe they are now more aware of their rights, and their responsibilities to their fellow competitors on the race course.

Jim Casto
race_commander@austinyachtclub.net