

Race Report – SCC Laser Regatta, May 22, 2010
by regatta winner, David Nicol

Hi everyone,

Here comes an average report about a way-above-average regatta at Sebago Canoe Club! The second annual spring regatta for Lasers and Laser Radials was a great success, with almost double the number of participants as the inaugural year.

Ten competitors came from across New York State and started the day with a much-appreciated breakfast of bagels and coffee. After a short skipper's meeting, it was clear that the race committee had their ducks in a row and everyone set out towards the bay.

Racing started in 6 to 8 mph of wind from the southeast, running almost directly against the tide (conveniently). Throughout the day, the tide stayed on the right side of the course, evening out with high tide around 3:30. The wind increased as the racing went on, and races became increasingly about hiking when breeze reached 12-15mph.

In the first races, the competitors pushed each other around three-legged courses. As the wind increased, five-legged and triangle courses were seen. All the credit goes to the race committee for keeping races on schedule and courses on the breeze. Even with changing winds and courses, the buoys were always in the right spot and the line was always square.

The racing around these well-placed marks was kept even with a very competitive field. Kia Olsson, at thirteen, was the youngest sailor, and showed remarkable poise (with a full-rig) in increasing breeze. She led the visiting contingent out against the current to the course (tricky stuff) and then led the female competitors on the course. She finished first in a group of three fast females who kept it close all day.

The middle finishers were remarkably close, with only three points separating fifth, sixth, and seventh. Justin, James, and Bob kept it even all day. All had good races, and all seemed to have an advantage in different parts of the course. James, of course led the way in the shiny boat contest (highlighter yellow!). No points for that however!

The top four kept it close all day and certainly had strengths in different areas of the course. Dan (who had only sailed a laser twice in the last 12 years) averaged just over fourth place. Mat Doherty showed serious speed downwind and rode his waves to third. The two Daves managed to finish in front, but definitely weren't alone in any finish. I still need to ask Dave Trinder how he sails so high upwind – everyone stayed away from his windward side! David Nicol managed to average second (shows how competitive it was) and take the win. The best prize was getting to drive back to Saratoga with the Nicol's rickety laser trailer.

The best part of the day was certainly the terrific hospitality at a great location. Sebago Canoe Club is definitely a special place, and hopefully an even bigger crowd can make it next year!