

The 77th Annual Snipe Southwestern

Cathy O'Neal and John Beall

Springtime in Texas can be volatile. We enjoyed near ideal conditions for the 77th Annual Southwestern Snipe Championship, held May 25-26, 2013, at the Corinthian Sailing Club, White Rock Lake, Dallas. The wind blew from the southeast, ranging 10-15 mph with gusts to 22, warm temperatures, lots of clouds, and warm water. Nine boats toed the line including four from out of town.

Steve Bell served as PRO, assisted by Amanda Boers. The Corinthian fleet sailors provided expert support with a couple of capsizes and kept a close eye on the weather for us. Thanks especially to Pete Seymour, Gibb Joseph, Mike Krasner, and Rob Drechsler, who served both days. Laura O'Leary provided a light breakfast and great lunch on both days. Cameron Adams arranged the fantastic dinner buffet.

Saturday's weather added excitement, with so many clouds, blowing over and around us. During the 3rd race they got closer and darker. At the finish line the RC said to head in quickly since the storm was coming our way. We all made it in the nick of time and lots of bustling occurred to get the sails down and head to the clubhouse. A nice little squall blew through, with cooler air, and 42mph wind. We were glad and grateful for all those modern day conveniences of little devices with radar screens.

Saturday night we had an excellent dinner catered by Mexicali, then we relaxed in the clubhouse and discussed various regattas and who has ever gotten the worst bruises related to sailing. While everyone had little cuts and bruises to report, it appears that falling off the docks is probably the most painful. Martin Bebb stole the honors in this category when he passed around his cell phone displaying a bruised leg picture from the NA's which made our storm clouds look mild. Ouch.

Sunday had a slight chance of showers which never materialized. Everyone remarked at how perfect the weather had been for this regatta. New Snipe sailor, Dave King, designed and produced the burgee flag trophies for skipper and crew for the top five boats.

The awards ceremony also included some great history stories. Martin Bebb mentioned that "I've been coming here since 1973, and it's always been a great time." Mark Williams and Gene Soltero explained that the perpetual trophy, repaired several times, was originally for the "Annual State Snipe Championship. It started in 1952."

The final results are listed below. Local sailor, Gene Soltero, took first place overall with crew Laura Dahl O'Leary. Laura Dalglish, with husband and crew Dan, took second place and we were happy they joined us for their "honeymoon year". Steve Tautz, with Alanna Strong as crew on Saturday and Amanda Boers as crew on Sunday, placed third. These results prove that while local

knowledge of wind patterns is helpful, it is also possible for those who do not sail here often to interpret the squirrely winds of White Rock Lake. The competition was quite close.

Final Results, 77th Annual Snipe Southwestern

	Sail #	Skipper	Crew	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Pts.	Throw-out	Final
1	30477	Gene Soltero	Laura Dahl O'Leary	5	1	2	1	2	11	(5)	6
2	28099	Laura Dalgleish	Dan Dalgleish	2	4	1	3	1	11	(4)	7
3	30568	Steve Tautz	Alanna Strong/ Amanda Boers	1	2	3	2	3	11	(3)	8
4	31157	Martin Bebb	Doug Day	3	3	6	5	4	21	(6)	15
5	29143	Stephan Irgens	Monica Irgens	4	5	5	4	5	23	(5)	18
6	30218	Mark Williams	Amanda Williams	6	6	4	6	6	28	(6)	22
7	28694	John Beall	Laura Rusnok	7	7	7	7	7	35	(7)	28
8	28369	Cameron Adams	Cathy O'Neal/ David King	8	8	8	8	8	40	(8)	32
9	26805	Jim Stilson	David Card/ Jason Alpers	10\ DNF	10\ DNC	10\ DNC	9	10\ DNF	49	(10)	39

The local sailors benefit from expert coaching by Gene Soltero and Mark Williams, and over the years we've progressed to the point where we can now nip at the heels of the lead pack, and see first-hand the amazing array of tuning, trim, technique, and tactics that goes into modern Snipe sailing. No other form of small boat racing has been developed to such a high art.



Photos by David Werther

Since White Rock Lake has shown us what a great venue this can be, there is proposal submitted to have the District Championships here during the State Fair Regatta in October 12-13. We hope so.

Serious sailing, serious fun!