

2013 V-32 NCR

by John Davis

Situated as a water feature for the large, new Jordan Creek Mall, with a wide concrete walkway to the waters edge, our pond is a great venue. We have a first-rate Control Area, an extra-wide dock where launching and seeing what happens on a classic modified Olympic course makes for great racing. We enjoy varied conditions, with spring and late summer prevailing winds out of the south at 10–12 mph, often gusting to 20, and often very light air in July and early August.

The ideal wind direction on our pond is from the south, SSE, or SSW, and that is what we enjoyed this entire season, except for this V-32 NCR. On this September day, we started at 10 with the wind coming in from the SSW at 15–17, with gusts well past 20, which made for tough but fast-paced racing. At about 11 light rain softened the wind a bit, but then shortly after noon, everyone was shivering and wondering why. The temperature started in the mid 70s and held there well past 11, but by noon it had dropped 20 degrees! Wet and cold, we broke for lunch. When we resumed racing about 1:30, the 0–20 mph wind started veering from SSW, to W, and then to NW, so we reversed the course, and had at it. Fortunately, the temperature had started warming, and when we finished racing at 3:45, the temperature was up into the low 80s. Unfortunately, the west shifting wind funnels around and in between the restaurant buildings lining the west side of the pond, created totally unpredictable currents of air, interspersed with dead spaces. To quote Rob Hill, following his hard-earned third-place finish: “You had many conditions I have never seen before. Wide and varied would be a serious understatement; it was a really humbling, challenging, learning experience to say the least.”

The point spread for 16 races does not truly reflect the closeness of the racing. Because of the challenging wind conditions (especially in the afternoon) no race followed a predictable pattern, and the lead literally changed from leg to leg. It is a real testament to Charlie Rhinehart’s skill and perseverance that he placed first in this NCR. By placing second in a class in which he had never before sailed, let alone handling the challenging conditions of the day, David Brawner’s racing spoke for his skill. I doubt anyone involved would call this a fun regatta, but I guarantee everyone savored the unforgettably tough competition, and even tougher conditions. No matter your skill level (so long as you understand the primary RRS) and no matter your model yacht class, travel to regattas and you will be a better skipper for the experience.

Summary of the 2013 V-32 NCR

September 28

Location: West Des Moines, Iowa

Host Club: Iowa Model Yacht Racing Club

Entries: 8

Winds: 0–20+ mph, shifting SSW to NNW

Races completed: 16

Scoring: Low Point (no throw-outs)

Regatta Committee: **Bruce Zemke**, Regatta Coordinator; **John Davis**, RD.

V-32 NCR Top 5 Finishers

Place	Skipper	Sail #	Points
1	Charlie Rhinehart	5886	34
2	David Brawner	1765	40
3	Rob Hill	5108	53
4	Bruce Zemke	5271	75
5	Brian Larson	5767	80

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