

Gorge Games O'Pen Bic Regatta

July 19-20, 2008

We all had a great time this Saturday at the Gorge Games - O'pen Bic "Unregatta". We had 15 sailors, parents, volunteers and the sailing instructors down to the Hood River Marina to watch the fun. The Gorge didn't disappoint, giving us more than enough breeze and making the conditions challenging for all. It was so good to see how well our experienced sailors handled the breeze and the tenacity of our new sailors to conquer the race course. The Regatta Report and Results are below, but first I would like to thank the following:

Andy and I couldn't have made it happen without Susan Winner and Susan Sutherland – thank you for the great organization, prizes and lunches!

Thanks to all the volunteers!

I want to give a huge thank you to our sailing instructors (and Wendy) who came down to join in the chaos.

I also want to thank our veteran sailors who hopped in boats to help the new sailors – great job!

Thank you Andrea and Andy for all of the Gorge Games coordination.

One last huge thank you to Ted, Bart and Bic for all your help and generosity!

Regatta Report and Results:

The day started with Relay Team racing. We randomly divided the sailors into 3 groups, asking them to come up with a "creative" team name and assigning each team a parent volunteer. We had some great racing with lots of lead changes mostly due to capsizing in monster puffs. The smaller sailors doubled up in the Bics for better ballast in the gusts.

Team Racing Results:

Relay Race #1

- 1st – (Black) "The Dark Side of Sailing"
- 2nd – (Orange) "Big Rolling Turds"
- 3rd – (Red) "The Janitors"

Relay Race #2

- 1st – (Red) "The Janitors"
- 2nd – (Black) "The Dark Side of Sailing"
- 3rd – (Orange) "Big Rolling Turds"

Course Race (Slalom!)

- 1st – (Black) "The Dark Side of Sailing"
- 2nd – (Orange) "Big Rolling Turds"
- 3rd – (Red) "The Janitors"

Relay Team Racing combined scores:

- 1st – with 4 points, "The Dark Side of Sailing"
- 2nd – tie with 7 points, "Big Rolling Turds"
- 2nd – tie with 7 points, "The Janitors"

After the lunch break we held the much anticipated "Freestyle Frenzy". The sailors that took the 2 day Gorge Games clinic had a slight advantage over the fleet because the instructors taught them all a few of their own tricks from back in their junior sailing days. We saw lots of rail-riding, dragging, mast climbing attempts and back flips. Gabby mastered keelboat hiking which definitely suited the day's conditions. Jonathan gave the best "Dive, Dive, Dive" performance and Jarred got the record for the most continuous tricks. The dynamic duo of Blake and Daniel wowed the crowd with their symmetric, synchronized back flip dismount off their turtled boats. Even in the final round the judges had a tough time picking favorites. By far one of the best crowd pleasing maneuvers was McKenna's perfect cartwheels off her capsized boat. Charlie rode the rail as easy as hiking and wowed the crowd with a hand stand and several rail-ride-into-a-back-flip dismount combos. Over all, Levi won with his mastery of all the tricks showing incredible height and rotation in all his back-flip combos.

Freestyle Frenzy Results: (I apologize for any name misspellings)

1st – Levi
2nd – Charlie
3rd – McKenna

We ended the day with a Distance Race which included a long reach out into the river and back. The breeze was full-on at this point so only our most experienced sailors, our crazy sailing instructors and an enthusiastic dad competed. Coach Hannah clearly won the start in the seven boat fleet. Levi also had a great start – keeping track of the time not only for him but for his dad Cory. Hannah's lead off the start held until two-thirds of the way up the beat. Andy caught a couple of good shifts to just push her to a port-tack duck. Andy rounded the weather mark onto the tight reach with Charlie right on his heels. Andy managed to hold Charlie off on the high reach but was no match after the jibe mark onto the low, long reach down to the bottom of the course. Charlie kept control of Andy on the tight long river reach by hiking hard and riding down the puffs. On the last beat, Charlie kept to the favored tack to win the race by a boat length!

*Distance Race Results: (*Master's Division, over 13 years old)*

1st – Charlie
2nd – Andy*
3rd – Hannah*
4th – Gabby
5th – Cory*
6th – Levi
7th – Taylor* (DNF – Did Not Finish)