

## HOOK Race – 2009

The race started well. We had a breeze and all divisions went off on their way to a great HOOK Race. We had a forecast that predicted winds all weekend although they would be light for most of the race. With that in mind I shifted my weather map to show the northern portion of the race so that I could see what the weather would be at the finish. Little did I know that I could have driven to Milwaukee and would be able to see most of the boats between the hours of 6pm and 8pm Saturday evening. This was not good!!!! Lou and I drove up to the M&MYC in a mix of weather. We had a bright sun and a hard rain that lasted for about a mile. We arrived in Menominee in gorgeous weather with a 6 to 9 knot wind from the southeast. What could be better?

The racers however were in light winds as predicted but were experiencing an interesting weather system. The winds increased during the night time hours and provided some of the best sailing for the fleet. The winds went down during the daylight hours which is unusual. I heard many racers talk about how beautiful the weather was and how good the racing was at night. Another interesting fact is that we had no severe or bad weather. Not a typical HOOK Race. No rain, no heavy winds, no storms, no big water and just a light fog one morning.

The M&MYC members again gave us 100% cooperation. They really enjoy sailing and all that goes with putting on a good race and party. They again put out a spread of food for the racers and the work crews at the club. I understand that we consumed 30 pounds of pop corn this year. I don't know what that means either. This is a great venue.

The first boat finished at 4:57 am on Monday morning. This was a 31 Corsair driven by Frederick Hartray. He received Line Honors for the race. He should also get an award for coming the greatest distance to race. Fred lives in Italy. The other finishes are listed on the RYC web site for you to look at. Two boats from the M&MYC won major honors in the race. Mitch Hubert on Flash Gordon was the overall winner and Thunder was the winner in PHRF II and also the winner of the Double Hand class. It is worthy to note that Thunder was only 16min and 40 seconds behind Flash Gordon. Had he been able to erase that 16min 40sec lead they would have been the first Double Hand boat to win the HOOK Race. They got close!!!

We all had a great time after the finish to talk about the race and lie a little and then enjoyed the Rum Party and Pig Roast. Steve Paulson had some great games and events for the racers blow off some steam. He is very good at this and the racers look forward to this time at the party. Great going Steve and we look forward to new and fun things next year. The Cruising Club came through and joined us at the M&MYC for the festivities. They came across in what they called the "Crossing from Hell". All arrived safe and had a good time. I want to thank them for their support of the HOOK Race. Ask Joan B. about her hair-raising rescue at the M&MYC !!!!!

Thanks again to all the many people that make the race a success. There are too many to list here but I will be thanking them personally.

Ron Weiss