

Keepit Kool Regatta 2022

With the Dam full, we had plenty of room to play on for this year's Keepit Kool Regatta.

Race programme was for 2 races on Saturday, 3 on Sunday and single race Monday followed by the presentation.

The troupe from NHTYA arrived on Friday afternoon and setup camp. The first thing that struck us was how much water there was. Wow! Then second "Wind", we have breeze and third, cold! Oh well two out of three, we'll take it.

Up with the annex and out with the diesel heater. Due to the cloud cover, the night wasn't too bad and no frost at least.

Saturday is normally an easy-going day, with rigging in the morning, making sure every thing was ship shape and we all had our bungs, before the registration and race brief.

85 boats had been entered coming from all around.

The number included, 26 Multihulls, 42 OTB's, 10 Sports boats and 7 trailer sailers.

Here are some of the clubs that were represented;



Teralba SC	Port Hunter SC	Mannering Park Amateur SC
Royal Prince Alfred YC	Richmond River SC	RMYC Toronto
Spears Point SC	NHTYA	Palm Beach SC
Lake Macquarie YC	Newcastle Cruising YC	Big River SC
St George SC	New England SC	Lake Keepit SC

Day 1 - Race 1: 13:00. Course was set as C2- Triangle x,2 then sausage course.



25 multihulls on the start line. What a mess. Not a great start, but I was off but at the back in the fleet which consisted of everything from large 20ft trimarans, F20 and F18 Cats to little 4.3 Mari's and Windy's. Once the large boats moved on, the smaller guys were able find some breeze and start to move along. The first race was done in quick time for Keepit standards. Breeze was up, consistent in strength, however never in direction. Marshalling behind the finish line waiting for race two to start,

one of the committee boats approached to inform the multihull fleet we had all but a few missed the top mark. Most of us followed the leader and didn't see an additional mark up right in front of the club house. The Multihulls had a larger course set to monos which most of us missed. 20 DNF's, Oops!

Day 1 - Race 2: Course was set as C2- Triangle x2, then sausage course. OK, this time I was staying well away from the carnage at the committee boat end and up the pin end of the course. A much better start, clearer air. The racing was great, but bitterly cold.

Most of the OTB Cat's managed to fly a hull and the Bounty ran their spinnaker in lively conditions.



Sunday - Day 2 - Race 3 & 4

Early start: 9:00 race start...We were informed this will most likely be more like 9:30-10:00, but still we had to be ready to go. So after breakfast it was on with the thermals and wetsuit again. Still damp from yesterday but ok once swarmed up a little.

Out for the start. Course was set for C1 which was the short version consisting of a single triangle followed by a sausage. The breeze was still up so both races were over in quick succession. I had no real issues or incidents only loads of boats to navigate at times, especially in parts of the course were the two combined bringing the entire fleet together. I must make special mention of "Slippery When Wet". Guy's you really sailed the pants off that thing. Passing was something you couldn't unsee. They seriously need to get that crack fixed...



Race 5 – Passage Race

After lunch it was a dash to the other side of the dam to make the start of the passage race down the river. This consisted of a reach to the top mark a single tack and reach back to the finish. The breeze was good allowing the Cats to fly their hulls for long periods. Some great shots of Andrew were captured by the Keepit Club on this his Maricat "Lifted".



Sunday Night

Time for a few warming beverages, an Andrew Dyce fire, and few stories of the day, followed by a surprise campfire sing-along with Brain and Andrew on guitar and rest of us murdering some of the classic songs of our day.

In the morning, Tom had no hesitation in let us know how bad we all sounded from where he was trying to sleep in his rooftop tent not far enough away.



Monday - Day 3 - Race 6

A very crispy morning. Clear skies resulted in temperatures below zero. Car windscreens were covered in a thick layer of ice. However, the wind had departed leaving Keepit as we've grown to know it.

Only Andrew and Val and Brian were interested in heading out for the final race. The rest of us began to dismantle our camp preparing to head home. It wasn't long before we noticed Val and Brian returning with Andrew in tow.

Andrew the "pyro" loaded his ute to the hilt with firewood, so we had ample to keep us warm. Thanks mate. Much appreciated.



NHTYA Member Results

MultiHulls			
Tom Howell	Fanky	Sundance 4.3 (Modified)	5th
Andrew Dyce	Lifted	Maricat 4.3	12th
Warren Parrott	Catatonic	Maricat 4.3	15th
Craig Obrien	Orca	Weta Trimaran	17th
Doug Dyce	This Side Up	Maricat 4.3	24th
David Bowerman	Rush Hour	Windrush 14	25th

Sportsboats			
Cameron Kesby	Slippery When Wet	Spider 22	8th

Trailer Sailer			
Brian Harrison	Bounty Hunter	Hunter 18	4th

Many thanks to the Lake Keepit Sail Club, race committee and volunteers for another great regatta. See you all again next year...

And no mice!

Warren Parrott

