

Windward Sheet volume 2016, number 10

It was a fast, hot, wet, rough race. Most boats were in before Noon on Monday.

And the winner, again, was Andy Grootendost and the crew of his Morgan 41, Cynthia, with a 1st place in Section 9.

Other SJRYC contenders included Dandelion (5th); Imagine (6th); Captain Blood (7th); Wellenreiter (9th); Chateau de Michelle (9th); Attitude (9th); and Silk (10th) also finishing. Elixir and Rush started the race but withdrew prior to finishing. Elixir battled a broken boom, which could have done serious damage to their boat. We tend to forget that at times, the Mac race can be as much about survival as it is about going fast.

Our congratulations to all the SJRYC boats that competed in this race. Noted below are comments from two skippers:

“This was a very challenging race. Horrible thunderstorms, high winds, unrelenting rain, lightning and poor visibility etc. I saw my first ever waterspout! Reports of a racing vessel that sank, man overboard, broken mast, broken boom, heart attack, broken bones, blown out sails, fittings, shackles etc. and we missed by inches the twelve foot log alerted to be drifting by the Coastguard in the Manitou passage. Attitude had their share of challenges. Our crew, of various abilities and ages worked together with no injuries, the boat intact and to finish progressively better in our section standings. What a ride!!!” --Stu Boekeloo

"Of my 31 Races to Mackinac, this was one of the most difficult. We experienced intense rain, thunder, lightning, and very challenging wind conditions. It really put skippers and crews to the test," said Chicago Yacht Club Commodore Greg Miarecki. "The 108th Race to Mackinac will not soon be forgotten."

This week we do not have a regular Series Race to allow all the Mac sailors to return home. We start again next Wednesday with our Summer Series. We'll see you then on the water.

Best regards, Ken Z and Jim S.