

## 2016 Beaver Fever Regatta/ Western Region IOM Championship By Peter Stevens

*April 2-3<sup>rd</sup> Beaver Lake, Victoria, BC.*

The first major event of the 2016 IOM circuit was a resounding success. Twenty-two skippers from BC and Washington State enjoyed warm spring weather and challenging wind conditions to complete seventeen (two heat) races.

Saturday morning started with light #1 rig conditions but by the time we resumed racing after a short break for lunch, the wind had swung 180 degrees and had more than a few people considering whether their #2 rig might be a better option. Everyone stayed with their #1's and as a result, there were plenty of nosedives, pirouettes, and some terrific planning action by the few that could keep their boats upright. Eleven complete races were in the books by the end of the day.

Sunday's wind was more typical of the racing usually experienced on the lake. Light and shifty, it was a real challenge reading (or guessing) where the next shift or puff might come from. Six races were completed before it was decided that the conditions were getting a bit too soft and fluky.

Our new Western Region Champion is Kelly Martin of Bellingham, Washington, followed closely by last year's champion, Graham Herbert of Hornby Island. The top two skippers were never separated by more than a few points throughout the entire regatta. In third place was Peter Stevens of North Saanich.

The top ten places were an even split between Canadian and US sailors, and, there were 8 different designs, a real credit to the IOM rule.

Of course, none of this would have taken place without the hard work of our Regatta Chairman and PRO, Barry Fox. As always, the event was superbly organized and the racing was conducted at a very professional level, with a lot of good natured humor directed at the competitors as they walked back and forth through his control area. He even created the carved wooden plaques supplied to each skipper as a regatta memento.

Also helping to make everything run smoothly: Lawrie Neish (Measurement/observer), Leah Mathewson (Scoring/ observer/ rescue boat), Dave Seager (Observer/rescue boat/photos), Ron Armstrong (Scoring) and of course the VMSS team of Bill/ Bev Andrews and Mike Creasy, who cooked up the hot lunches each day.