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By Wayne Wallace

March 20th, 2016, was a great day for our second "Racing 101: Practice Regatta" sailboat race. There were 14 WSA-OC members who participated as crew, four skippers and the committee boat crew. The winds were good (unlike the last time we hosted this event) and the competition even better. All of the boats were only separated by a few seconds and the overall winner ultimately had to be determined by a tiebreaker, which was a practice start.

The day started with discussion on strategy with an emphasis on starting and the skippers meeting outlining the courses and races. Everyone then departed on their assigned boats to participate in a practice start and two races. Afterwards everyone joined again for snacks, beverages and post race discussion and trophy presentations.

Following official sanctioned races, the results were determined by the PHRF ratings, corrected times and lowest total point scoring. In the first race, 2 miles in length, only 60 seconds separated all of the boats and only 7 seconds separated the first and second place boats. In the second race, 3.5 miles in length, 77 seconds separated the first and second boat across the finish line.

At the end of the day the race results had skipper Rich Bennett with crew Susan Carle, Brenda Highley, Linda Halcom and Florinda Ramos aboard *Autumn Moon* in first place with 4 points followed by second place skipper Cindy Wynne aboard *Solmate* with 6 points, Wayne Wallace aboard *Wind Dancer* with 8 points and Susie Campbell aboard *Campbell's Sloop* with 12 points.

A special thanks to the boat skippers, the race committee crew of Dean L'Hommedieu and Jon Gaare; Kat Wallace who helped to coordinate the event and Aventura which allowed WSA-OC to once again utilize their facilities and training room. All of these folks made it possible with their generous offer of their boats, time and experience.