

Dave Fitch Regatta,
Spofford Lake — Fleet 145
Spofford, New Hampshire
June 27-28. 2009

Pos	Skipper	Crew	Crew	Sail #	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	Total	T/O	Total
1	Bob Bush	Sterling Bush	Jeremy Rathfon	14654	1	3	1	1	1	3	4	2	1	17	4	13
2	Joe Rosen	Alex Gemmell	Ben Craig	13792	4	1	3	6	5 (RDG)	1	3	6	5	34	6	28
3	Bob Shapiro	Josh Gershuny	Ryan Gershuny	14667	3	2	2	3	3	7	6	5	4	35	7	28
4	Ben Wallace	Karen Wallace	Sean Campbell	14621	2	4	4	2	4	5	7	4	3	35	7	28
5	Georges Peter	CH Ritt	Elizabeth Ritt	14688	6	5	6	4	2	4	2	3	6	38	6	32
6	Pat MacQueen	Amy	Ralph	14360	5	6	5	7	5	6	5	1	2	42	7	35
7	Brian Comfort	Kyle Gershuny	Crew Guest	15258	7	8	7	5	6	2	1	7	7	50	8	42
8	John Hughes	Nadine Lavendar	Pat McCormack	11136	8	7	8	8	7	10	10	10	10	78	10	68
9	Tom Fitch	Deb Fitch	Dave/Ashley Fitch	13835	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	90	10	80

The weather in New England this summer has been wet and cool with little wind inland.Â The forecast for Spofford Lake (SW corner of New Hampshire) was little different from the past 5 days and the next 5 days â€” occasional showers and isolated thunderstorms with light and variable winds - not exactly what we are hoping for.Â However, we managed to get in all 9 races over Saturday and Sunday and stay dry - even getting a little sun.Â We had 4 fleet boats plus 5 visitors, including long time district sailor Georges Peter coming to our small lake for the first time.Â Dot Fitch along with son Tom and family made it to the regatta, but â€œThree Cheersâ€ was not quite ready for the racecourse.

With the standard late start on Saturday, the first race was started just after 1pm in a max of 2 knots.Â Racing at Spofford in this light a wind is possible as we have no waves except for the very occasional motor boat.Â The wind was from the northwest, our preferred direction, but the wind was light enough that the wind just filtered down off the surrounding hills, rather than moving around the hills.Â This gave us remarkably steady winds for our little lake.Â I don't believe the RC changed the course all day.Â The leeward gate was perfect as the fleet split and both buoys gave chances to gain.

The Bush boat got off to the right of the fleet in the first race, found some private wind and were gone.Â The only question was whether they could beat the 40 minute race time limit.Â Unfortunately for the rest of the fleet, they made it.Â Ben Wallace, last year's champ, was second, as the rest of the fleet was tightly spaced

Joe Rosen sailed a great second race to take the gun, with Bob Shapiro second.Â The last three races had the Bush boat in front at the finish, with Bob Shapiro showing the fleet that the north shore lane was the way to go downwind when you needed to gain.Â Even with the wind light, the lightnings were able to sail directly downwind as there were no waves to collapse the spinnaker luff and no need to heat things up.Â The only question was jib or spinnaker.

After an overnight thunderstorm, everyone arrived at the club to see less wind and light rain.Â With a short delay on shore, the rain stopped and the wind was from the north at 3 knots.Â This is a somewhat unusual direction on our lake.Â The first race was a tight race both upwind and downwind.Â Joe Rosen was able to get around the gate first and held on over Brian Comfort in second.Â The next race had Brian Comfort out in front with a fantastic start and they held on in our shortest race.Â After a reset of the course (30 degree shift to the Northeast), we had the windward mark getting just close enough to the shoreline to create some big opportunities just after the offset mark.Â Pat McQueen and the Bush boat had a great duel downwind, at different gate marks and upwind with Pat getting the gun.Â The last race had Pat and Bob in an almost identical race, with both boats rounding their same (opposite) gate marks as the race before, but with Bob getting the gun this time.

While the wind was never up, the racing was fast and friendly along with the folks involved.