

2019 Victoria NCR

By Bob Spraker

Ah, Mesa Arizona in the early winter, what a great place to be! Nearly perfect weather; sunny with temperatures in the low 80's, what else could you ask for.... well how about some wind for one thing.

As the regatta started on Saturday morning, Race Director Mike Eades put the skippers on "postpone & stand-by", waiting for some type of steady wind to take hold. After a lengthy delay, we finally got in two seeding races for the 20-boat fleet with Al Lehman Jr. and Bob Spraker taking bullets. More delays... no wind, changing mark positions, a little wind, more mark changes... how about a lunch break? It was a very difficult and frustrating morning for the race committee who tried their best to get in some races. Finally, after lunch we got in two races (4 heats) before the day was over, with Spraker and Lehman each winning one.

Sunday's racing started an hour early as we hoped to catch up with races lost on Saturday. After a short postponement, RD Eades got the boats in the water and heat racing resumed. Still in very light winds, races #4 & #5 saw two new winners; Al Lehman *SENIOR* and Dennis Rogers, and that somewhat scrambled up the leader board. Race #6 was won by Lehman Jr. (yes, Jr/Sr – great to see father/son duking it out) tying up the regatta score with Spraker; with Craig Mackey, Rogers, Jerry Robertson, Al Ross and Chris Macaluso still close in the hunt.

After lunch we saw the best winds of the regatta, though still very light, with peaks up to maybe 5 mph. Al Lehman *JUNIOR* sailed very smart and fast knocking off three straight bullets to run away with the regatta and win his first National Championship. Spraker took 2nd, holding off a surging Mackey who took seconds in the last two races to place 3rd. Rogers who sail a very steady regatta (staying in A fleet every race) took 4th and Robertson finished strong to take 5th. Four in a row, ex- National Champ Chris Macaluso took 6th, though he might have had more luck/fun if he had played golf or pool, since he easily found every *hole* Dobson lake had to offer.

Thanks, and congratulations to all the skippers who competed. Many thanks to the thankless job of the Race Committee and last, but not least to the "food" team who grilled lunch and kept us watered down.

Summary of the 2019 Victoria NCR, Gold Chevrons

Date: November 1-3

Location: Dobson Ranch Lake; Mesa, AZ

Host Club: Mesa Model Yacht Club (#xxx)

Entries: 22

Winds: Little to 5 mph, variable

Weather: Nearly Perfect; 85 degrees & sunny

Races Completed: 9 (18 heats)

Scoring: Promotion/Relegation 4 up/down, low point – 2 throw outs

Race Committee: RD, **Mike Eades**; Asst. RD, **Mark Kane**; Scorekeeper, **Al Stiewing**

Valuable Club Helpers on the “Food Team”: **David Tandler, Al Wendler, Loran Turpen and Mae Spraker**

2019 Victoria NCR Results

Place	Skipper	Sail #	Points	Home State
1	Al Lehman, Jr	595	10	AZ
2	Bob Spraker	26	20	AZ
3	Craig Mackey	18	24	CA
4	Dennis Rogers	19	28	CA
5	Jerry Robertson	0	28	AZ
6	Chris Macaluso	65	35	TX
7	Al Ross	55	37	LA
8	Denny Hanson	49	40	CO
9	Ray Seta	88	46	TX
10	Al Lehman, Sr	580	51	AZ

Remaining Finishers: Kirk Welker, Ron Roper, Stephen Feuerheim, Don Lucas, Harry Lyle, Claude Turner, Ken Hegy, Mark Cooper, Rob Shaw and Ron Turpin