

Colorado Governor's Cup
Denver Sailing Association – Fleet 488
Denver, Colorado
September 19–20, 2015

Sailed: 3, Discards: 0, To count: 3, Rating system: USPN, Entries: 9

Pos	Boat	Sail#	Club	Helm Name	R1	R2	R3	Total
1		15265	DSA	Steve Davis, Jan Davis, John Faus	1	1	1	3
2	Quest	15315	DSA	Bill Cabrall, Jeff Walsh, Elyssa Hammerman	2	2	2	6
3		15265J	CSC	Max Williams, Marnix Hoogwater, Peyton Ann James	4	4	4	12
4		15004	DSA	Bob Stoller	6	3	6	15
5		14681		Jon Kidder	5	8	3	16
6	Blue Two	15228	DSA	David Thompson	3	7	7	17
7	Randy Lion	15865	DSA	Lucas Armstrong	7	6	8 DNC	21
8	Louceitos	11457	DSA	Curtis Rist	8	9	5	22
9	Dandy Lion	12871		Gregory Cox	9	5	8 DNC	22

Photos by Francine Ulatowski



Champions: Steve Davis, Jan Davis and John Faus



Runner Up - Bill Cabrall, Jeff Walsh, Elyssa Hammerman



Second Runner-Up: Max Williams (skipper), Marnix Hoogwater and Peyton Ann James

Steve Davis Coasts to Victory in 2015 Colorado Governor’s Cup

The 2015 Colorado Governors Cup Regatta served up a classic case of Rocky Mountain high ... pressure the weekend of September 19-20, with two days of spectacularly beautiful late summer weather that had everything on earth going for it except wind. Although 40-70 miles away, the high mountains framed a crystal clear baby blue sky that deepened to a deep navy overhead. All over the Rockies, people hiked, biked, climbed, camped, paddled, gardened and were overjoyed to be out and about, while on Cherry Creek Lake the Lightning Class convened for that special type of nautical mayhem known as a light air event. Turnout in the Lightning fleet was the best it has ever been, the result of decades of fleet building by the likes of Bob Stoller, Steve and Jan Davis, Jim England, David Thompson (the worlds best sailing club commodore), and a cast of thousands. Out of 11 boats in the dry storage yard, 9 were on the water for this event.

The Denver Sailing Association pulled out all the stops, arranging both big and small boat classes for this multi-fleet event, 4 meals, a band, a raffle, and a silent auction supporting the club. Major sponsors included Sperry Topsider and the Cherry Creek Marina along with 36 other local vendors.

Here in the high mountains, the Governor’s Cup is the biggest event of the sailing season, held near the end of the summer each year when teams are at their peak after a season of local, regional, and national events.

The Lightning Fleet was no exception. The Max Wiliams junior sailing team had been racing and training almost daily all summer, David Thompson had pulled in Lori England and Norm Jarvis, fresh off stellar performances at the WJMs in Tawas, Bob Stoller snagged Jim England for the weekend, Steve Davis lined up both Jan Davis and John Faus for one of the top ten best teams in North America, if not the world, Lucas Armstrong and Team Dandy Lion sported a newly acquired boat, and Greg Cox bought the original Dandy Lion to start his Lightning career with a very classy and unique lightning. Curtis Rist pulled in his brother and nephew fresh off a season on the San Francisco Bay cityfront, and was very lucky to team up with Jeff Walsh and Elyssa Hammerman, a stellar combination.

So, with great sailors from San Francisco to New Jersey converging in Colorado, we were started off in Race 1 of (hopefully) 6 on a windward-leeward course in a dying westerly. Approaching the first mark with a half boatlength lead I noticed the fleet in front of us could not carry chutes and fetch the leeward mark and elected not to set. As Steve Davis jibe set and sailed right over the top of us I reconsidered this decision and hastily popped the kite, but giving Steve, Jan and John a 5 boatlength lead is never a strong strategic move, and we ended up second, followed by David Thompson, Max Williams, and Jon Kidder.

Race 2 was a windward leeward 2 lapper using multiple weather marks held in very light to dying wind. Off the line the fleet scattered, each boat striving to connect what passed for puffs before the wind dyed completely. Team Davis got bow out, then a length ahead, then 3, then ... (well, you get the idea). By race’s end they had a very strong 1/3 mile lead. Somewhere in the middle, between a hint of a puff and a breath of dying air we were able to work out in front of the pack for a hard fought second, followed by Bob Stoller and Max Williams.

So ended day 1.

The next morning, the RC set up a triangular course for race 3, and got for their efforts a beat and 2 runs in the first leg, followed by a beat, run, beat, and reach on the second leg in a light to dying breeze, ultimately finishing the race, and the regatta at the (theoretically) downwind mark. Wind alert showed the wind going hard right all day, and I was very pleased to start this race by getting to the right and bow out on Steve Davis. Normally the daily directional prediction wouldn’t matter much on a 0.4 mile leg, but it looked like this one was going to take a month to sail and I wanted to be on the correct side when the wind shifted in early October. Unfortunately for us, the wind went left, it turned into a run, and Steve pulled out another 5 boat length lead. Then followed the aforementioned beats, runs, and reaches, ending the regatta in zero wind after three races.

Final Standings – Team Davis undefeated, followed by the Cabrall boat (yours truly), Max Williams, Bob Stoller, and Jon Kidder.

The Colorado Governor’s Cup itself is given to the skipper with the best average finishing position of all the different fleets sailing. The clearest way to win it is to go undefeated in a large fleet. This year it went to Steve Davis, Jan Davis, and John Faus with a perfect score in the biggest fleet on the lake. They sailed a great event and clearly deserved the honor.

Authors note: While is was calm on this weekend, and I have written this report in a manner to make you smile at the joys of a long light air event, we do actually get wind, and some great sailing here in Colorado. You are all invited to join us, and we are looking forward to seeing you soon. Welcome to the high country!

Bill Cabrall
Fleet Captain, Fleet 488
Denver, Colorado