

The Queen City Model Yacht Club hosted their annual 2025 SeaWind Spring Regatta on April 5th at Pineville Lake Park in Pineville, NC. This regatta was also the first of three regattas in North and South Carolina which make up the Carolina Classic SeaWind Series.

Nineteen skippers and many spectators were treated to a beautiful spring day with sunny skies with temperatures ranging from the 60s in the morning and the 80s in the afternoon. We were even blessed with some very nice breeze that allowed us to complete twelve races in the two-hour morning session and another twelve races in the two-hour afternoon session. Our Race Director, Bob Green, did a great job of keeping the fleet on task. Bob and the fleet also kept our scorekeepers Marie McComb, Sheryl Saindon and Jim Poutier (video review specialist) very busy.

The day started with our competitors meeting. Commodore Andy Russell welcomed the competitors and Race Directors Mike Saindon and Bob Green discussed the sailing instructions. This was followed by Howard Baugh's playing of the United States National Anthem as any great sporting event does. Boats were in the water at 10AM and racing soon after. The morning session had winds in the 2 to 5 knot range with the occasional gust of about 8 knots. Nineteen 1-meter SeaWinds on our small pond made for crowded starts and mark roundings. The finishes were also exciting with many boats crossing the finish line side by side. We broke for lunch from 12 to 12:30 and were back on the water and racing in short order. The afternoon session saw the winds increase to around 4 to 8 knots with a few strong gusts of 15 knots. Boat handling and managing the puffs were key to keeping the slightly overpowered SeaWinds upright and sailing fast.

In the end, it was Brad Russell taking first place with 64 points. Andy Russell made an afternoon charge at first but came up just short, finishing second with 67 points. Steve Helander rounded out the podium, finishing third with 88 points. We also had ten of the nineteen skippers win a race over the 24-race event.

Thank you to the Greenville Model Yacht Club and Greensboro Model Yacht Club for travelling to join us. We look forward to joining your clubs for the next two regattas in the Carolina Classic SeaWind Series. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to make this regatta a success. Also, a special thank you to the Pineville Parks and Recreation Department for allowing us to use this beautiful facility to sail our toy boats.