

2025 Lake Hopatcong Icebreaker

By: Dickie Hoff

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When E Scow sailors come to Lake Hopatcong for a regatta, they are guaranteed a welcoming fleet, good time, and a venue that will betray even the most seasoned sailors. The regatta had all that and more, a great breeze. This made for a phenomenal race for the 15 boats that took the starting line.

Saturday morning arrived with sunny skies, five knot breeze, and a lot of promise. Race 1 started patchy but soon after filled in with abundance. George Welch, who spent his sailing career negotiating everything that Lake Hopatcong could throw at him, used that knowledge to take the first victory.

Race 2 was sailed in a consistent 10-15 knots with strong gusts keeping crews honest. Veteran Dave Magno and team had no problem shaking off those winter cobwebs and sailed to victory. Since the second race plan worked so well, Dave decided to rinse and repeat resulting a race 2 victory

By race 3, the wind cranked up to 12+ knots and the lake was speckled with some nice 20+ gusts to keep all sailors alert and very wet.

Saturday night was a relaxing evening of sailing stories, good music, and axe throwing. Despite the competitive nature of E Scow sailors, the axe throwing was purely for exhibition purposes, and no one used it to settle old scores. Nonetheless, great times had by all.

Sunday arrived with some 25+ knot gusts peppering the race course. Since it was early in the season and the conditions were precarious, the Race Committee wisely determined that it was best for all competitors to not risk more mayhem on the racecourse. Nonetheless, Saturday's races had peaked everyone's competitive juices.

During the awards ceremony a North Sail jib was awarded through a raffle to 13th place finisher, Ruairi Herraghty (HO-61).

All in all, consistency was rewarded as Dave Magno and crew took the top position, followed by George Welch, and Anders Hudson rounding out the podium.

A great weekend enjoyed by all and promised to return for racing next May.