

Vineyard Ventus #1  
July 11, 2021  
Recap

The VHYC and the Southern Massachusetts Sailing Association (SMSA) partnered this winter to bring adult team race to the area. Vineyard Ventus (Latin for "Wind") was born. The VHYC hosted the first of two Ventus regattas on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The second Ventus is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>.

All clubs in SMSA are invited to send sailors of all skill types. Sailors are grouped according to their experience level to build evenly matched teams. The teams then spar in a team race format, 3 boats per side. Each team uses the rules of sailing to advance their teammates past the opposing team. The team that finishes with the lowest combined team score wins the race. Team racing is unique with its short courses (15 minutes) and the concentration of the action.

30 sailors representing 4 clubs attended the inaugural Ventus. Clubs from Nantucket, Beverly, Vineyard Haven, and guests from Boston Community boating were represented. After a very educational classroom style overview of the key aspects of team racing by Karl Ziegler the sailors headed out to the evenly tuned and equipped Sonars.

Sailing began in a light southerly breeze. The racing was remarkably close with a lot of lead changes in each flight. This being a teaching event, no scores were kept, but that did not detract from fun competitiveness and outstanding seamanship by all. The participating clubs combined to form 3 compete teams who rotated after every two races. As the rust wore off and skills developed the race committee upped the ante with the call for spinnakers to be used in the final 4 races. Game on! Close racing with 6 boats with spinnakers makes for great spectating and is action packed for the sailors. As the 5-9 knot southerly died out the sailors headed to the barn having completed 14 races.

A social and debrief was held on the upper deck for sailors from remote shores to get to know each other and to discuss the various situations encountered on the water. Fun was had by all, thanks to a busy race committee, led by Will Stevens, and volunteers who helped prepare the boats.

Ventus #2 is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>. We are anticipating hitting our cap of 36 sailors. Sailors from any SMSA club can attend, please email the event chair, Greg Stevens, at [greg.stevens@gmail.com](mailto:greg.stevens@gmail.com), as soon as possible to express your interest and to reserve your spot.