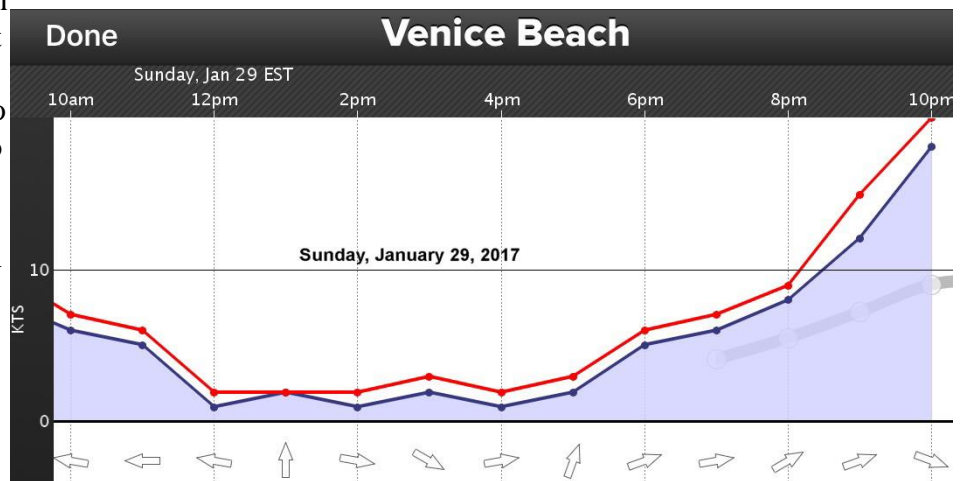
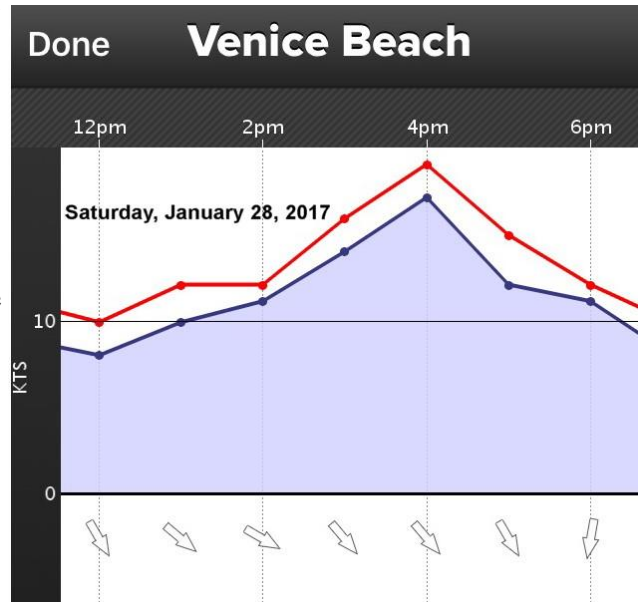


January 30, 2017

The big news of January was the annual Windjammer regatta, which is co-organized by VSS, the Sarasota Sailing Squadron and the Venice Yacht Club. The format was a pursuit race from Sarasota Big Pass to Venice on Saturday January 28, passing some VSS marks along the way, and a return to Big Pass on Sunday, January 29. We had 19 boats registered in six classes. There were a set of five courses to choose from for both days. Saturday was quite cool (actually cold for me) and fairly windy. The first boats started just after noon with the faster boats following at appropriate intervals with the hope that everyone finishes at the same time. The wind as recorded at the NOAA site was in the low to mid teens most of the racing period (Noon to 4:30 PM) with an excursion to an average of 17 knots between 3 and 4 PM and one gust to 19 knots. The wind had been fairly strong for some time and the waves were coming from several different directions. The course selected was 16.1 nm long and ran from a government mark near Big Pass to a VSS owned mark about ½ nm west of the Venice Inlet, out 3 nm to the NW to another VSS mark and then back to the mark near the Inlet to finish. The first boat to finish was Iguana, a Stiletto catamaran owned by Jon Dowd of the Sarasota Sailing Squadron, the next to last boat to start. She sailed the 16.1 nm course in 2:26:07, for an average speed of 6.6 knots, which translates into 8 to 9 knots through the water. The after race festivities at VYC were somewhat subdued, in my view, because so many of us were quite cold, (especially me)!. There was plenty of food and beer but I was home quite early. The forecast on Sunday morning was discouraging. Still cool with possible rain and a very light southwesterly breeze shifting to the west in the afternoon and strengthening. That turned out to be optimistic:

Only about half the fleet decided to try to sail the course, mostly due to the lousy forecast. The first boat started just after 11 AM, when there was still some breeze, but the wind dropped rapidly to the 1-2 knot range, making sailing very slow. In just a few minutes one boat called in and dropped out and by about 2 PM a regular chorus of announcements on the radio began as one-by-one we all quit. Fortunately, it never did rain significantly. The awards party will be at SSS next Thursday evening.

I think the event came off well. The Race Officers, Peter Robinson and some unidentified people at Big Pass on Saturday, Ken Nolan at Venice on Saturday afternoon and Gary Greve, Di and Mike Kirk at Venice on Sunday morning, made all the right calls, in my opinion. Sponsors included UK Sailmakers, Team Fruition and Green Flash Sailing.



The results are (S= Spinnaker, RC= Racer-Cruiser, PC=Pocket Cruiser, NS=Non-Spinnaker, M=Multihull and C=Cruiser):

Windjammer 2017 Results By Class					
	Boat Name	Class	Sail #	Rating	Club
1	Zephyr	S	104	87	SSS
2	Raegan-e	S	67818	96	VSS
3	Grand Illusion	S	11182	114	SSS
4	Fruition	S	30707	105	VYC
5	Raptor	S	155	81	
6	Oh Brother	S	95	177	VYC
1	Flash(CS)	RC	83301	120	VSS
1	Green Flash(N)	PC	16	238	SSS
2	Opalina(N)	PC	413	240	VSS
3	Passing Wind(N)	PC	48	244	BSGYC
1	Joy	NS	R33	202	VYC
2	Vivance	NS		257	SSS
3	Solitude	NS	30	227	SSS
DNF	Y Knot	NS	272	276	BSGYC
1	Iguana	M	187	24	SSS
2	Sunspot	M	7	12	SSS
1	Bella Mer(N)	C	324	206	VYC
2	Seas The Day(CS)	C	46	173	VSS
DNC	(DNC) Spindrift(N)	C	84	206	SSS
	N= Non-Spinnaker				
	CS=Cruising Spinnaker				
	S=Spinnaker				