

SJRYC Windward Sheet volume 2016, number 12, Aug 11, 2016

It was a carbon copy of last week's warm weather, with lovely flat seas and modest wind speeds predicted to fall as the sun went down. The RC team again set short legs and this time with Upwind/Downwind rounds for both sections. Spinn went first and did five laps, JaM was second with 3 laps. Finish times on the course were comparable in both sections even though the Spinn boats traveled much further, as the JaM boats generally struggle going DDW in light air.

It was interesting to watch the starts from the (relative safety) of the RC boat. Silk was over early and executed a text-book perfect escape by rounding the Committee Boat to take a place windward of the fleet and not too far behind. Moody Blue was setting themselves up for a clean start on Starboard tack down at the Westerly end of the line, when they decided to Port tack the fleet and head inshore. We watched them duck lots of transoms to get there. Over in JaM, Jeff Mitchell on Little Beauty and WaterBlue found themselves on a classic Port-Starboard collision course, but Andy Grootendorst on WaterBlue, who had rights on Starboard, came about at the last moment to avoid damage to the boats. Other boats in JaM who found themselves running down the line before the start ended up to leeward of the leaders.

Spinn and JaM had similar finishing orders, with one well-sailed boat in each section winning by huge margins. Wellenreiter just stomped all the rest of the top Spinn boats by a margin of three and a half minutes over sistership Imagine, showing the power of the Farr 395 boats in flat water, light air, beating and DDW conditions. A close third was Distraction, another Farr boat, coming back from a tough race last week just about a half-minute back in third. Fourth was Silk a half minute in back of Distraction, with Captain Blood a half minute back in fifth.

The same profile repeated itself in JaM, with Gordon Dill's Silver Arrow showing great speed in these conditions to thoroughly trounce Carrera, also by about three and one half minutes. Third place, about a half-minute back was Jeff Mitchell's Little Beauty, also well known as a fast light air, flat water boat. JaM has another very competitive boat this season as well, Dan Emery's Fuzzy Logic, who finished in fourth, less than a half minute back with Gary Sisson's WinSome just two seconds behind Fuzzy.

All this close racing makes for tremendously close Series and Season standings. Welly has a single point advantage over Distraction for the Summer Series. Zot, the third-place contender is a long seven points back at 12, and three other boats are placed right behind, with Imagine and Silk tied at 13 and Captain Blood one point back at 14. The final order of flag winners in Spinn for the Summer Series is anyone's guess.

In JaM, the top spot is a tie, with Silver Arrow winning the tie-breaker over Carrera. But in JaM, there is no huge distance between second and third as exists in Spinn, with third place boat Fuzzy Logic just two points behind the leaders, with one point separating White Knuckles and Little Beauty in fourth and fifth. As is usual, the margins of victory are much tighter in JaM than in Spinn.

We owe much of this to our hard-working RC boat crew, and we can never thank them enough. Onboard this week were regulars Bill Thomas, Bill Womer, and Kathy Grootendorst along with Principal Race Officer Ken Zimmerman. Whenever any one of us gets a chance, we should all express our thanks to these great volunteers who work so hard so we can have so much fun.

#### Protest Note:

In last week's race (Wednesday 03 August), a potential protest was announced by Distraction against Imagine over a "tacking too close" incident when within the three boat-length zone around a mark. After further discussion, Distraction chose to drop the protest. Although this protest was dropped, reviewing the rules on mark roundings will help all of us remember our obligations. The basic idea is that you cannot tack inside three boat length circle around a mark and force a windward boat to alter course to avoid hitting you. So if you are sailing on Port, and ahead of a boat sailing on Starboard, you cannot tack within the three boat circle ahead of the boat coming in on Starboard if you will cause that boat to alter course to avoid you--even though you are the leeward boat on the same tack.

There is a short, excellent video on this which will help you visualize application of the rule:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YscWSJGL61Y>

We Got It Wrong: When we reported that Andy Grootendorst was onboard Little Beauty last week we were wrong. Andy has been onboard Little Beauty earlier this Series, but this past Wednesday he was onboard Water Blue.

#### Rescheduled Dual Handed race

Due to a lack of RC boat crew, we have rescheduled the Dual Handed race to one week later, on Saturday 27 August. This is a fun race where Spinn and JaM race against each other. Note the correction below in the revised schedule for the rest of the season.

Racing Schedule: August is a very busy month at the SJRYC.

Noted below are the races coming up:

Sat/Sun 13/14 August: PHRF Perfection Race to MCYC – Offshore Series

Wed 17 August: Summer Series #5

Wed 24 August: Summer Series #6

Sat 27 August: Dual Handed race, Spinn + JaM together

Wed 31 August: Staggered Start Race - Spinn & JaM together

Fri/Sun/Mon Sept 2/4/5: Tri State – Offshore Series

Wed 07 Sept: Summer Series #7

Wed 14 Sept: Summer Series #8

Sat 17 Sept: Chili Regatta – Spinn & JaM together

We'll see you out on the water, Ken Z. and Jim S.

The Windward Sheet follows the SJRYC racing fleet and is published at irregular intervals throughout the sailing season.