

SJRYC Windward Sheet volume 2016, number 15, August 25, 2016

At 3PM on race day, the wind was howling at around 20 knots true at Tiscornia Park, the rollers were building to 3 - 4 feet plus, and the outer end of the channel was rough. We were worried if the RC boat would be able to be on station anywhere except for in the Northerly lee of the piers--and even in there, the rollers were marching through. We had predictions all day of thunder storms, at differing times depending on when you looked. It was, at best, a troubling forecast.

Once out in the lake at 6PM, the sky looked ok due west, but we watched a storm front plow through just North of St Joe with plenty of rain, and onshore, tall thunderheads were building. The wind was 10 knots or so true out of the South, and the prediction was for that wind to stay more-or-less steady, with the rollers slowly diminishing over time.

The RC team set a nice long starting line out at C, sending both sections out for a beat leg, which most boats were able to fetch without tacking, all the way down South, then a DDW leg back North and inshore, a very close reach back out to sea at mark C, and then another very close reach back to the finish line just offshore of the piers. Twice around the triangle for Spinnaker, who started first, and once for JaM.

The RC boat was at the favored end and traffic there was heavy. Moody Blue, rumored to have Kevin Ziegert from Cynthia along as a guest, got a fantastic start, although not as good as Imagine, who began to blast away from the Spinn fleet.

The JaM start was jammed at the boat end (sorry, I couldn't resist) and although a few boats were to windward of Carrera, she pointed up high and escaped the pack, as her rating would suggest. Alongside, although further to leeward, long-time rival Silver Arrow had a nice, full speed start, all by themselves in clear air. The first leg for all boats was a fetch if you did it right, or a beat leg with one tack to round the mark if you could not point up high enough to lay the mark. The second leg was a long downwind slide with some notable holes in the air that were killers if you got caught in one. Imagine built on their great start and early lead to sail an excellent race in Spinn, although it was not a wire-to-wire win by any means.

In fact, Wellenreiter at times had a large lead over Gint. One jibe left hourglasses in the rig of Imagine, and on the first downwind leg Imagine went out to sea while Wellenreiter stayed in shore and sailed faster, taking the lead. Imagine passed them on the upwind leg and sailed a strong finish. This was tremendous racing from two excellent crews, on a pair of theoretically identical boats. It was exciting to watch from the RC boat.

For most Jammers, rounding the final mark and heading home became a significant challenge, as one of the holes was hiding prior to the final mark at C. Andy G on Water Blue kept his eye on the boats ahead and saw several, including Dr. Stuart's Attitude, suddenly slowdown from what was a good pace as the leg started. Andy diverted Water Blue around the hole and sailed by several other competitors, a pass which he made stick all the way to the finish.

In Spinn, it was the first ever win for Gint Karaitis on Imagine in SJ, by all of nine seconds over the well-proven Team Welly crew. Moody Blue certainly was benefited by their visitor, Kevin Ziegert as they finished third just 11 seconds further back, with Captain Blood fourth, and Dandelion in fifth. Mike Kinney was assisting on Silk and they finished sixth.

In JaM, Carrera came back from last week's unforced error to find themselves able to avoid the big hole prior to the last mark and corrected out first, the margin of victory explained by what happened behind them at the final rounding as the rest of the JaM fleet had to fight through a wide-spread hole before heading onto the last leg home. Gordon Dill took second, with White Knuckles saving their time on a hard- charging Water Blue in fourth and Ken Stanisiz on

Velatura in fifth.

The crews of Wellenreiter and Dandelion hosted their annual cook-out party after the race which this year came complete with live music. Over eighty people attended, and the event was spread out among six slips surrounding Dandy's regular berth. This is a great late season tradition, and we had both a wonderful race and a beautiful evening to enjoy it. Thanks to both these boats for organizing this event.

For the Summer Series, it remains Welly and Distraction planted as one - two, with a shoot-out for third place led by Captain Blood. Pretty much the same story in JaM, with Silver Arrow leading Carrera and a tie for third place between Little Beauty and Eric Mallen, with Fuzzy Logic just two points back in fifth. As usual, JaM margins in the race for Series flags are much closer than Spinn.

Dual Handed Race: This Saturday, 27 August 2016. Skipper's Meeting at 10 AM on the Junior Foundation Dock, right near the RC boat, race to follow directly after. Feel free to raft up at the SJRYC wall. This is a race where JaM and Spinn boats sail against each other, and features only two sailors on each boat. Over the many years of the event, all kinds of different boats have won, from the largest and fastest-rated in our fleet, to last year, when one of the smaller JaM boats, Jeff Mitchell's Little Beauty, was a very close second to the winner, Captain Blood. For this race, only the winner is counted.

Staggered Start Race: Next Wednesday, 31 August 2016. Regular start time, so be out in the Lake by 6:30 PM. Spinn and JaM together in one section, everyone has their own start time. For this race only, you are allowed to run your engine in gear up to your start time. Engines must be out of gear from that moment forward. There is no second place for this race; first place is all that matters. Last year it was won by one of our best Spinn boats in light air and flat water, Zot, who ended up about 2 seconds ahead of Carrera which held a solid lead for much of the race. Once again, very close margins between Spinn and JaM in this race last year.

We ask each boat to register at the link below, or through RegattaNetwork at the Boating and Sailing tab at SJRYC.com so the RC boat can have your special start time prepared in advance of the event.

https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet_registration_form.php?regatta_id=11795

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

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