

The Windward Sheet, Volume 2016, number 4

One of the goals for the SJRYC race program is to have real competition in both fleets. To see if we are reaching this ambition, we measure our two sections in comparison to previous years in several different ways. For example, at one time, both sections were dominated by a single boat, which won the vast majority of the BotY flags year after year. More recently, we have had at least two boats in each fleet win BotY, in back-and-forth battles. This started over a decade ago in Spinn (2004) and five years ago in JaM (2011).

We also track the BotY margin of victory. In JaM, as an example, it has been won by a single point in two of the last few years (2012 and 2013). This is the kind of competition we like to see and is a nice step up from the previous years when a single boat won JaM BotY in 6 out of 7 years (2001 - 2007); and in Spinn 5 out of 6 years (1998 – 2003).

Another metric is the competition between the fleets in the races we run together, the Staggered Start and the Double-Handed race. In 2015, both races were won by Spinn boats, which is what we expect, but Little Beauty was a very close second in the Double-Handed race and Carrera lost by a nose to Zot in the Staggered Start race. This is the competition we love to see.

For this 4th race of the 2016 season, Eric Mallen's White Knuckles Too beat all the other fast boats in JaM that were busy fighting among themselves. This is a wonderful step forward for Eric who won the JaM Commodore's Cup award in 2015. How competitive was the contest for the CC in 2015? Eric won over Gary Sisson by a single point after an entire season of racing. It simply doesn't get closer than that. In Wednesday's race, perennial fast sailor Gordon Dill on his "mystery ship" Silver Arrow was second, after scrapping with Fuzzy Logic and Carrera for most of the way around the course. Jeff Mitchell on Little Beauty with a batch of brand new sails showed excellent boat speed and saved his time for third, just ahead of Dan Emery and his expanded racing team on the Dehler 34 Fuzzy Logic. The times they are a changing in JaM. Both these boats look very competitive for the 2016 season.

Over in Spinn, Captain Blood, who has done very well in big offshore races for many years, and was awarded a flag in the 2015 Spinn Summer Series, put together a great race in what most would say was not his air or seas, and won what we think was his first race ever on Captain Blood in a regular series race. We asked Patrick to comment and his note is shown below.

From our perspective on Captain Blood, we rolled out our new North #2 at the start for the first time this year. Perfect conditions for that sail on Blood in 10-14 knots of wind. Even though the pin end looked favored, we ultimately realized that it was only the angle of the shoreline vs the angle of the first leg that gave us that false impression and the winds were shifting from WNW to ENE consistently during the start sequence. We ended up with the best start in the spin fleet at the boat end with clear air and good boat speed that got us to the windward mark a short distance behind Wellenreiter.

Leg 2 we put up our new reaching spin. (Both of the new sails were designed to fill deficiencies the boat has in very specific wind conditions that we realized in the Mac Race last year). Wellenreiter didn't get their chute up on the second leg so we were able to hang with them and stay ahead of the rest of our section including Imagine & Distraction both who owe us time. We jibed around the mark and found the winds had shifted more so we ended up on a second reach for the third leg. Distraction managed to pass us right at the finish line as we aimed for the committee boat and got headed at the end enough to force us to tack across the finish line.

When the course was set as a square we expected to go upwind, then reach, downwind, and a reach but ended up with an upwind, reach, reach, upwind course. In 10-14 knots, the course didn't favor us but having just raced in 5 races Friday & Saturday, the crew was on their game constantly telling me to drive the boat and not worry about what they were doing. Twisted halyards, hanging off the back of the boat, etc didn't matter, they were all over the boat problem solving.

Had a question at the club from Jud's wife (who is Commodore of the Club)... "Why are you guys back so quick was the race too short?" I said "no, actually it was a great course. The wind just happened to stay strong for the whole race when it was expected to die down 50%". I think the race committee set a really good start line and picked an appropriate length course.

- Patrick Nelson, Schock 35 Captain Blood

Finishing behind Patrick was Wellenreiter, a scant 25 seconds back, with Bill Born on Distraction less than a minute adrift, then Zot, and Cynthia. With one throw-out applied, Patrick and Bill Born are tied in the Spring Series for 1st, with Welly two points back and Andy Grootendorst on Cynthia two more points adrift. This is very close racing and there is no way to predict who wins this Series. Will Welly sneak back into the lead? Who inches ahead between the leaders Bill Born and Patrick Nelson? What will Andy G and the splendid sailors on Cynthia do to get back in front?

South Haven Invitational

Here are results from the South Haven Invitational, held Saturday June 4, 2016 and attended by a number of our Spinn racers: Spin 1: 1st - No Quarter; 2nd - Sufficient Reason; 3rd - Spirit Walker; 4th - Captain Blood; 5th - Imagine; 6th - Archelon; 7th. Spin 2: 1st - Crisis Mode; 2nd - Sea Raider; 3rd - Silk; 4th - InVincable; 5th - M43; 6th. JaM: 1st - MiiAmo; 2nd - Infinity; 3rd - Legacy; 4th - Impromtu; 5th - Gallavant; 6th. Overall Winner: MiiAmo.

Rhumblin Regatta, Saturday 18 June 2016

Sign up on RegattaNetwork to join this special afternoon trophy race next Saturday.

Potential New Boat in our Fleet

Keep an eye out for a new boat in Spinn, a W Raceboats GP 26 Sportboat. This is a very modern design, with a fractional rig, deep bulb keel, and masthead assy spinnakers. We are not sure if they will make next week's race as we go to press. More details to follow as they are available.

Jim Grant and Infinity

Please be sure to say hello to our new JaM skipper, Jim Grant who sails his Islander 37 Infinity. You will find him an exceptionally nice fellow, with a strong sailing background. He is planning to race the Rhumbline with us on Saturday, so walk over and introduce yourself at the Skipper's Meeting.

See you on the water, Ken Z and Jim S.

The Windward Sheet follows the SJRYC Race Fleet and is published at irregular intervals throughout the season.