

## **SJRYC Windward Sheet volume 2016, number 9**

The second race of the 2016 Summer Series couldn't have been more different than the first one. While last week was very light air, this one had real wind. This week also had storms and rain very close to the racing area, but Principal Race Officer Ken Zimmerman made the call to take us out in the lake and put together two very interesting courses that also kept us out of harm's way--mostly.

Ken noted that he saw a dark band of low clouds on the way out of the channel with a few strong bolts of lightning but it was apparent that there was a clear spot just behind so we made the decision to continue. Usually lightning is a show stopper but a calculated risk was taken and all worked out well.

Ken scripted a downwind start for the Spinn boats, and an upwind start for the Jammers, both on the same starting line. To do this required the Jammers, who went after the Spinn boats, when behind their starting line to get out of the way of a marauding pack of Spinn boats that had just started a really short downwind leg. Many of us had never seen something like this before, but it worked fine and added a bit of excitement to the pre-start maneuvers.

Both starts went off without a hitch and the boats sailed different courses that brought the fleets together here and there. Just off the starting line of the Jammers, Gordon Dill's Silver Arrow had his main halyard part, causing him to drop out of the race. When the Jammers got to their first mark, the Spinn fleet boats were also rounding, which made things interesting. The winds were variable, and we saw from about 14 apparent to over 23 knots, from the South. The big storms stayed South of us and mostly over land.

Distraction again held the lead in the early parts of the race, with Welly and Imagine just behind playing catch-up. Same in JaM, with Carrera leading the fleet after Silver Arrow dropped out, with Dan Emery on Fuzzy Logic in second on the water just as the ratings would predict. Once the finishing times were tabulated, in Spinn, it was Distraction with another first place finish and Welly with their second second in a row. Dr Stuart scored a 3rd for Attitude with Patrick Nelson's Captain Blood in 4th and Jud Brown on Silk correcting out to 5th.

Over in JaM, it was another upset this week with White Knuckles correcting out for first, a minute ahead of Little Beauty, who was able to save her time over Carrera by 29 seconds. Rumors placed a mystery rock star celebrity skipper onboard Little Beauty this week. Only the shadow knows. Infinity did a fine job coming in fourth and Chateau, always a good boat in heavy weather, took fifth. JaM finishes were fairly well spread out other than the top three, but Spinn had close calls all up and down the finishing order, with Distraction winning by just 27 seconds, Attitude grabbing third by 6 seconds, and Elixir, Dandelion, and Picaron each separated by about 30 seconds.

Because of the big wind, some of the temporary markers moved a bit at the start and finish. At the finish, the mark had moved enough so that Ken Z announced a "Virtual

Mark" on VHF for the finish that had racers passing by the RC boat until they heard the horn. It was a bit unconventional, but effective--and a reminder that we always want to have our radios on Channel 69.

Once we get back to racing in two weeks, we have just six Summer Series races remaining--as well as our usual slate of special races. Here a quick rundown of the top five BotY contenders at this point in the season. Note that one throw-out has been applied from the Summer Series:

**BotY Spinn:**

Distraction - 12  
Wellenreiter - 15  
Captain Blood - 15  
Imagine - 24  
Zot - 26

**BotY JaM:**

Carrera - 5  
Silver Arrow - 7  
Fuzzy Logic - 8  
Infinity - 11  
Chateau Michelle - 13

We have had some very competitive races so far in the Summer Series, so for most of the boats on this list, the race thrown out from the Summer Series was a rather poor finish. However, for Distraction and Wellenreiter the races thrown out were a 1st and 2nd respectively, which puts these two top Spinn boats in good shape--for now--in the Summer Series. Both Carrera and Silver Arrow have thrown out poor finishes so far, which makes them vulnerable going forward.

Lots can happen in the rest of the season, but what we see in these standings is that both sections have three boats this year fighting for position, with just 3 points separating the top three leaders in both sections. Further back in the standings, the points spread between the top five contenders is much closer in JaM, at 8, than in Spinn, at 14.

Best of luck to our sailors doing the Mac race. Online race tracking is available at the Mac website, just go to <http://www.cycracetomackinac.com/> and hit the tracking tab.

Enjoy your mid-season break, as when we come back in early August, we step into the busiest time of the year for our race program with both our usual Wednesday races and special events on the week-ends.

Take care, Ken Z. and Jim S.

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