

SJRYC Windward Sheet volume 2016, number 13, Aug 18, 2016

"All comes to he who waits," it is said. And if you were willing to wait just a bit, there was a great evening of racing in store for you last night.

Hats off to Andy Grootendorst and his crew on the RC boat, who did an outstanding job in what were very tough circumstances. And what were those? An utter lack of wind as the race was ready to start. We discovered left over sloppy seas as we headed out into the Lake and a quickly dying breeze. But Andy, along with Marvelous Microphone Operator Mike Kinney who answered all radio traffic in the most courteous manner one could imagine—and no, really, I am not making this up!—did everything right to allow us to enjoy a wonderful evening of racing. Well, most of us, anyway.

First, they used the temporary markers to lay out an up/down course that could easily be shortened if needed. Next, they set off looking for wind far and wide. Then they properly delayed the race starts at 7:00 PM and went off again looking for wind. Finally, with 3 minutes left in the 30 minute delay, the wind came booming in. Even though many boats had given up, Andy and his team stuck it out. They gave us a very quick sequence to get the sections off on the course enjoying the now-perfect weather.

Spinn was first, initially three times around and then upped to five, with JaM once around upped to twice around. The Spinn start was tough, and boats too near the shore prior to the start were warned by Marvelous Mike Kinney that they could run out of water in there. No one did in the Spinn section, but all the Jammers heard the warning as well.

The JaM start had just three stalwarts racing, and disaster would strike for one particularly hapless skipper who would attempt to take his yacht just a bit too close to shore to position for the start. Even though the crew and skipper on this boat were actively talking about why they had to stay away from the shore, and one thoughtful crew member was calling out the shockingly decreasing water levels, your humble scribe on Carrera was still able to plant his boat soundly on the bottom of the Lake just prior to the start. We first tried to use the sails to get off, to get back to the starting line, but after the race had started, we had made zero progress. Andy came to tow us off but we were able to use our engine to back off the sand bar and be free to sail again someday--although not in this race.

Gordon Dill, who by the way was merrily sailing up the first leg of the course during the delay while the rest of us couldn't keep our sails full of wind, took an early lead in JaM and easily beat his lone competitor, Little Beauty by about two and a half minutes. Such displays of large victory margins were nowhere to be found in Spinn, however, where we had one of the closest races of the year up and down the finishing order.

Dirk Kruger on Sea Raider showed his transom to all the fast, hot, fully crewed race boats in our Spinn group to win by all of one second over a very competitive Patrick Nelson on Captain Blood, who also beat all the other hot, fast, fully crewed race boats in our Spinn section. Wellenreiter came in third about a minute twenty seconds back—which was a long way back for this race—given that Silk was just six seconds behind in fourth, with Moody Blue about 20 seconds back in fifth, and Zot four seconds adrift in sixth. This is great racing with the top six boats within a few minutes of each other.

This was an unusual evening, because it was so easy to turn around and head for the harbor while the wind was dead. And dead it was almost 90 minutes, starting at about 6PM until 7:25PM or so. Many of us took down our sails. On Carrera, we even bagged the AP#1 and flaked the main. But Andy and his team felt it was worth a delay. They were there to run a race, and they gave us a great one. For those of you who motored in, you missed a delightful sail.

To Andy, along with Marvelous Microphone Operator Mike Kinney and all the rest of the RC boat crew: Thanks for a great night of racing.

PHRF Perfection Race Report

We sent four boats to this race from SJ to Michigan City, Distraction, Captain Blood, Silk, and Infinity. The sistership of Distraction, Mrs. Jones, came from MC to SJ to start with Distraction. The air started heavy, then went light, then came back in nicely. Distraction and Mrs. Jones—who is owned, by the way, by Mike Jones—fought all the way down the Lake with our hometown hero, Bill Born, beating Mrs. Jones and winning his section. The race back home turned into a powered leg via the Iron Genoa as there was no wind. About 25 boats participated in this event this year.

Ken Z. was away on vacation this week, so we hope he will come home well rested and ready to go for the rest of the season.

Until then, we'll see you on the water.

Regards, Jim S.

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

