

SJRYC Windward Sheet volume 2016, number 16, September 01, 2016

For this issue we welcome a guest columnist, Dr. Stuart Boekeloo, from aboard the mighty ship Attitude. From onboard the RC boat, we knew that setting the anchor would be easy in those waves, but getting it back off the bottom would be a serious chore with a few of us above the magic age of sixty years old. So we opted to hold the boat into the waves with the motor, which worked well. Once all boats were away clean, we headed back to the harbor and found ourselves climbing the regular 6 foot waves along with an occasional 10 footer, while waiting for a lull to make the right turn between the piers to head for home. What a night, truly conditions for the young at heart in our program. It was great to see alumni of the SJJF run that sport boat with reckless abandon all around the race course. This is a great time to thank Bill Born and the crew of Distraction for building and setting marks able to hold in those wild conditions. For a hands-on report on the race, Dr Stuart's column appears below.

Over-the-Water Report from Attitude

Attitude knew this would not be a typical race when we passed boats with earlier start times returning from the Lake in the channel. Shouts of "we are not crazy" were heard from these fierce competitors as we pounded our way out into the salt-free sea. We were met with 10-12 foot swells and 23-25 knots of wind. After my experience in the most recent Chicago-Mac and a new resolve never to be a wuss, I put on my "Captain Dan" hat and proclaimed to my crew of two, "bring it!" We will win by default.

Apparently there were a few other boat owners with the same resolve. After watching the committee boat bounce around seemingly unable to anchor, the small flotilla of boats all had clear starts.

After observing one of my most seasoned crew lose his lunch (presumably overworked), Attitude was the first to round the north mark well ahead of the pack. After this defining moment the boat owner made the foreboding mistake of uttering to his drenched crew, "this race is now ours to lose." Attitude loves a good reach in winds and after four to five minutes of crashing through the waves not able to follow the usual leaders of the pack Wellenreiter, Distraction, Imagine, and so on, it became clear that the onus was on us to locate and round the next mark.

After much shouting and confusion, it became clear that we would have to send someone below to consult with our newly installed "state of the art" electronics even though they had been failing us and new Garmin software was just being tested. As our tech expert emerged from the cabin, we could see Kyle Bainter's new boat with a crew of twenty-somethings coming about after having over stood the barely visible C mark.

Foul language may have been uttered by the normally calm owner of Attitude. Attitude retraced their route and rounded the C mark after Picaron, Zot, Silk, and Fuzzy Logic. There may have been a couple of other boats close by but in the mayhem Attitude was not taking notes.

Attitude was able to pass Zot and Silk on the last leg but Kyle on his new little rocket complete with

crew of astronauts was long gone. The trophy was Kyle's to claim and to forever be enshrined at SJRYC. As sails were furled in the channel and the pop of beer cans opening occurred in the howling winds, it was apparent that the new kid in the harbor needed assistance. His 5 hp engine had fallen off the back of his boat in a prior excursion. The gas line was not strong enough to keep it attached to the stern after the mounting bracket broke.

In true sportsmanlike fashion akin to helping a disabled long distance runner in the Rio Olympics, the crew of Attitude set down their much deserved beverages and assisted their sailing brethren. Kyle and his slew of talented sailors were rescued by the runner up finishers and towed safely into port.

Libations, stories, embellishments and other tales of the sea followed at the SJRYC.

And thank you Stuart for a great story, well told. Good luck to all our racers in the Tri-State, and next Wednesday, we return for the second-to-last regular Summer Series race.

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.