

Welcome to the first race of the SJRYC 2018 Spring Series.

First races of the season are always special. First time back on the water either makes you feel good about how you stand against competitors after the long off-season break, or causes you to worry about the speed they've found over last year. New boats arrive in your section and display what you had no idea you needed to worry about. Which boats have new sails this year, or new gear? Who has picked-up new crew members? One of great challenges of racing is that it is never the same, but always finds a way to throw new problems your way.

If you missed this race, you missed a great one. The weather was gorgeous, not hot, with flat seas and a wonderful Northerly breeze of 7 - 10 knots. The RC Boat set a carefully squared line, sent the Spinnaker section first for the opening Beat leg with JaM right behind. Spinn went twice around up/down and JaM had a triangle with Beat, Beam Reach, and Deep Reach legs. We had 17 boats on the water for the first race, which is an excellent turn-out. We welcomed two new boats in JaM, the Tartan 30 Desdiderata skippered by Mike Kowrach, and the Ericson 32-3 Wine N Down skippered by Ron Klemm. Spinnaker welcomed the Jr Foundation J-24, Cahoots.

There was lots of action on the first beat with close crossing tacks in both sections. The Starboard layline was full of boats charging to the mark while pushing those pesky Port tackers out of the way. The top four boats in JaM rounded the first mark very close to each other--until Tom Jacobs on Dandelion couldn't decide if he wanted to race in Spinn by aiming for the Spinn mark, or continue racing with the Jammers. You could watch him, he was trying to make up his mind which way to go--left or right--but finally decided he liked the Spinn course better. Ok then.

When the smoke cleared in Spinn, it was Wellenreiter's night, cruising to what looked like a pretty comfortable lead of over two minutes ahead of their Farr 395 sistership, Imagine. Two more minutes back, Captain Blood led a pack of five boats finishing within two minutes of each other. Close behind Patrick Nelson's Captain Blood was the tremendously competitive Cynthia, about 20 seconds ahead of the always dangerous (in a good way) Dirk Kruger on Sea Raider, who was about 30 seconds ahead of the J-24 Cahoots of the SJ Junior Foundation, which was looking pretty racy for their first time on the course. Bill and Jack Born on Distraction, last year's Spinn BotY runner-up, was about 30 seconds behind Cahoots.

Over in JaM, there was lots of close racing as always, and the margins between first and second places was much tighter than in Spinn. First-to-Finish honors went to Moody Blue, finishing four seconds ahead of the second place boat Carrera, but Moody could not save her time. Dan Emery on Fuzzy Logic, last year's runner-up BotY, was in third with Keith Sawyer on Windspirit finishing a strong fourth about a minute behind Fuzzy.

Results are posted, use this link to go right to RegattaNet:

https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet_club_events.php?CLUB_ID=158

We apologize for our results being so late Wednesday night and are working on smoothing out the process in the coming weeks.

Many thanks to our Race Boat Team for running a great race, led by Jim Scholz, ably assisted by Vickie Frees, Blan Page, and Janet Jacobs.

We'll see you next week on the water.

Best regards, Jim Schrager

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