

SJRYC Windward Sheet, volume 2018, number 5, 21 June

Regular Spring Series Race 20 June 2018

Our first heavy air event of the season brought cloudy skies and consistent winds in the 9 - 12 knot range true out of the North/North East as predicted, even though the wind onshore was more modest from the Northwest.

Jim Scholz and his RC team set a challenging course that required some navigational skills, sending Spinn and JaM around different courses yet allowing the RC boat to be on station to take times for both sections.

Although Jim set a long starting line, starts were tight and messy as they often are given how competitive both sections are, with races and positions lost or gained by 5 seconds in some cases. The start can be a make-it or break-it moment for our top boats fighting for positions--in both fleets.

One of the tricky parts was Jim set an orange marker at our usual "start" position at the SE corner of the course on his way out, just in case it was needed. He also set another orange marker near the center of the course. In spite of making it clear that we were to use the Center Mark as a point in the course, the entire JaM fleet, led by Moody Blue, decided to round the SE mark instead of the Center Mark.

Once realizing this, the boats which understood their mistake, adjusted course to properly aim for the NW mark, while others who didn't realize they had rounded the SE mark instead of the Center Mark, headed up to what would have been the correct course for NW from the Center Mark. But they still had to leave the Center Mark to Port, and Jim had moved the RC boat to observe any boats not sailing the proper course. Sound confusing? Yeah, it was, but all part of the navigation challenge of sailing, which can be easy to forget when only running the familiar marks of our regular race course.

In Spinn, after a fairly messy start--which would certainly repeat for JaM--Wellenreiter pulled out a significant lead, finished first on the water by four minutes (!), and saved her time on the smaller boats. No real surprise there, but the big surprise was Gordon Dill and his J/88 Sylaza bounding home to a rather convincing 2nd place finish, the highest ever for this boat and its young (at heart) crew. Although they were about two and a half minutes behind Welly, they finished about a minute ahead of Distraction. Just like last year, Welly and Distraction are one - two in the Spring Series standings, so this was quite a nice job by Sylaza to finish in between the two Series leaders. Patrick Nelson was just 15 seconds back of Distraction in fourth, with Imagine fifth less than 45 seconds adrift, and Silk in sixth just ten seconds away from Imagine.

The Jammers had a wild race, with every boat going to the wrong mark first, which you might think would make the whole race a throw-out. That wasn't the case as the wrong mark was outside of the proper mark, so once everyone rounded it, they simply sailed on to the next regular mark of the course. Moody won the start but as always, Dandelion was

right their as well. Carrera got pinned after the start on the wrong tack by a slower boat but was able to slowly pull away and tack over and take off after Moody. Moody lead the fleet around the first mark but aimed high for the course to NW as if that orange mark at SE was the Center Mark, while other boats fell off to head on the correct course--or not. And some, as always, couldn't make up their minds where we had just been or where we were going.

After rounding NW and heading back to the Center Mark to finish, it was Gary Sisson's Oday 28, Winsome, that proved true to her name and saved her time over Carrera by 54 seconds. Next up was a well-sailed Dandelion, in third about a minute back, with a tremendous effort by Windspirit, just 17 seconds back in fourth. Little Beauty finished about half a minute ahead of one of our new boats, the Tartan 30, Desiderata in sixth.

We want to thank Jim Scholz for running this race, as he had to get to Chicago's Midway airport and back to make it work. We had arranged for three back-ups in case Jim was waylaid on his dash back to SJ, which included Blan Page, another member of the RC team, Patrick Nelson doing a Jack Rabbit start, and Andy Grootendorst and Mike Kinney who graciously were ready to run the race if needed. Thanks to all who were standing by if needed and a special thanks to Jim Scholz for making it back and Louie Tremblay for helping with our back-up plans. We can't forget Vickie Frees who as always is an important member of the RC boat team.

We apologize for the results taking so long to get posted correctly. We had computer problems, the RegattaNet website was especially slow last night, and we waited to speak with Jim Scholz well after the race was over to clear up questions on some of the times. We will continue to improve here, as no one wants results faster than we do.

Our Series Standings show Welly, Distraction, Imagine, and Captain Blood atop the list in the Spinn Section. Moody leads the JaM section followed by Carrera with the next four boats either tied or within a single point of each other, starting with Fuzzy Logic in third, a point ahead of Dandelion who is tied with Little Beauty in fifth, who is a point ahead of Windspirit. As is common, the over-all standings in JaM are much closer than in Spinn, although both sections have had many close finishes so far this year.

Amazingly, we have just two races left in the Spring Series, one of which will be held next Wednesday and the final race of the Series will be held Tuesday, July 3rd. Please note that very unusual day for this race, which was designed to allow us to avoid the huge crowds of July 4th.

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

Best regards, Jim Scholz and Jim Schragger

The Windward Sheet, established by Ken Zimmerman, follows the SJRYC Sail Race fleet and is published at irregular intervals throughout the racing season.

