

SJRYC Windward Sheet, volume 2018, number 06; 28 June

***Congratulations to our Offshore Racers:  
Cynthia, Elixir, and Sea Raider!***

*Andy Grootendorst and the crew of Cynthia notched another 1st place this season in the Queen's Cup, fresh off their 1st place in the Chicago to Waukegan event. Ron Groth sailed a terrific race to finish 2nd in his section of the Queen's Cup as well. Dirk Kruger sailed his C&C 110, Sea Raider, to 2nd in Section (and 3rd over-all) in the Solo Mac Race. He also captured first-to-finish honors in this grueling solo event. Imagine and Silk also participated in the Queen's Cup, finishing 10th and 11th in their sections.*

**Regular Spring Series Race 27 June 2018**

To say it was not a pretty evening as the fleet motored up the channel is putting it mildly. There was dense fog, sizable rollers and a fairly good breeze as we headed out. Many of us stayed close to the harbor mouth as we lost sight of the lighthouse very quickly in the fog. Boats would appear out of nowhere and we couldn't imagine a race in these conditions.

But as we slowly idled out into the pea soup, further offshore the air went light and the fog started to lift. At one point before the race, out in the lake, we had sunshine and good visibility. But when going back inshore, it was very poor again. Jim Scholz from the RC Boat indicated on the VHF he would be going out to sea to look for wind, as we had fog envelop us again close to shore.

After a delay, the RC Boat decided there was enough wind to start a race, and directed us out to the center to find an orange temporary mark. This wasn't impossible, but was tough as we still had lots of fog, although not as bad as inshore.

It took us a long time but finally the gray RC Boat emerged in the gray fog. Somehow, Patrick Nelson on Captain Blood was already there. Slowly, other boats found the line, and by the time of the starts, the fog had lifted a bit more with delays as needed to give everyone time to arrive.

The Spinn boats went out to the SW mark on a Beat leg, rounded to Port, then headed home for the piers where the RC Boat was on station. Jammers had an additional delay to move the starting line to give them a fair shot at the course and with the light air they headed on a fetch leg into the same finish area. While we had lots of boats out messing around in the fog, the lack of wind and visibility caused a handful to withdraw from the race prior to the start, which is understandable given the unusual and difficult conditions.

However, once the race got going, the fog slowly lifted and both sections finished under blue skies, excellent visibility, and modest, but fairly consistent winds. Jack, Bill, and Stephanie Born (Bill's wife) notched another victory for Distraction in the Spinnaker Spring Series, correcting almost two minutes ahead of Series leader Wellenreiter. Captain Blood was about forty-five seconds back in third, trailed by the Farr 395 Imagine in fourth almost a minute behind Blood.

Fuzzy Logic in JaM had the advantage at the start, but Carrera worked hard to sneak by and saved her time by just 27 second in another close contest between Carrera and one of the two boats tied for 2017 runner-up JaM BotY. Two of our new Jammers stayed out in the fog to make this race, and we were delighted to have them with us. Ron Klemm on the Ericson 32-3 Wine N Down took a third for their best finish of the season with the Tartan 30 Desiderata finished fourth.

Series standings for Spinn show Wellenreiter with a 2 point lead over Distraction, with Imagine 4 points behind and Captain Blood 5 points further back in fourth. Fifth is held by Silk 9 points adrift of Blood. In JaM, as is usual, the boats are much closer, with a tie for first between Moody Blue and Carrera, Fuzzy Logic in third 4 points behind the leaders, Little Beauty another 4 points back and just a single point ahead of Windspirit in fifth. The total points spread for the first five boats in Spinnaker is 20 and less than half that in JaM, at 9.

### **Further Comments on Last Week's Series Race**

Last week's race highlighted the way our rating system works, with one of the smallest boats in JaM taking a well-deserved victory over all the bigger boats, as Gary Sisson's Winsome corrected out in first place. In Spinn, Gordon Dill's small but mighty J/88 took their best finish yet, sailing to second place among the bigger and faster Spinn boats. Last year we had the smallest boat in Spinn, Eric Mallen's Ultimate 20, tie for first place in the Spinn Summer Series. Jeff Mitchell's Little Beauty, the smallest boat in JaM, sailed to a dominating victory in the JaM Summer Series, with no tie breaker needed, and was tied for runner-up BotY. We all complain and worry about our ratings but these finishes, and many others, show that well-sailed boats of any size can win races.

### **Last Race of the Spring Series is Tuesday July 3rd**

We have close races in both sections for our flag winners, so be sure to note that we race on Tuesday night next week.

Many thanks to Jim Scholz and his RC Team of Vickie Frees and new member Nick Gasorek for being creative on a tough night which allowed both sections to have good, close races.

We'll see you on the water next week.....

Best regards, Jim Scholz and Jim Schragger

*The Windward Sheet, established by Ken Zimmerman at a place nearby in a time long ago, follows the SJRYC Sail Race fleet and is published at irregular intervals throughout the racing season.*