

SJRYC Windward Sheet: vol. 2021; no. 2

Our second series race of the year was similar in many ways to the first, with a Northerly wind, flat seas, and a prediction of light air on the way. The RC Team, led by Louie Tremblay, with Bob Burke, Mary Beth Burke, and Barry Bischoff set an excellent course with a Windward Triangle sending Spinn to complete two up/down sets then rounding the triangle with JaM going once around.

But this week was different in that the lake was populated with big holes containing much lower wind speeds. Mostly you could see it on the water and at times the holes would seem to shadow you as you tried to escape.

The Spinn start was very busy with lots of boats in close quarters and happened just as one of the holes engulfed the starting area, thereby altering everyone's plan to hit the line on time and at speed. The J/111 No Quarter made a gutsy Port tack start through many of the fleet and seemed to emerge on the other side unscathed, yet a Protest was immediately lodged. Somehow Cynthia won another start, being the windward boat, although the light air hole hanging around made it tough to make much progress.

The Jammers had a group of boats favoring going on Port as soon as possible while others struck out on Starboard to stay out in the lake breeze. Holes in wind pressure had a big role to play in who made it to the windward mark first in both fleets. It was quite busy at the top mark, with the Spinn boats heading back down South and the Jammers going West.

Although the Spinn boats started earlier than JaM and had two extra up/down rounds, both fleets finished close to each other. No Quarter steamed ahead of everyone to finish first—and yes, they completed their penalty turn as well. Carrera was next over the line having sailed the much shorter JaM course.

While both sections were topped by the winners from last week--given the similarities in wind and water conditions--the racing behind the leaders was often quite a bit closer than last week. In Spinn, Captain Blood took a well deserved 2nd place about a minute ahead of Sea Raider in 3rd with Cynthia, Imagine, and Elixir in 4th, 5th, and 6th places all separated by 40 – 50 seconds each. Silk was very close behind this group in 7th just 17 seconds behind Elixir.

JaM was similar and although No Quarter won both weeks by about three minutes over the second place boat, in JaM last week's margin of victory between first place and second place fell from almost two minutes to under one minute. Much of the same happened further back in JaM, with Falcon, the Pearson 35 ably sailed by Paul Falk in second place with Gary Sisson on Winsome just 9 seconds back in third. Fourth place was separated from fifth by just 26 second between Windspirit in 4th and Little Beauty in fifth.

Boats Rejoining the Fleet this Week

This week we welcome two boats and skippers who sailed with us for the first time this year. Former SJRYC BotY and Mac Winner Gint Karaitis races his Farr 395 Imagine in Spinn. Gint has a long and storied history racing his former Schock 41 in SJ and all around the Lakes. In JaM we welcome Jeff Mitchell on his S2 7.9 Little Beauty, always a tough competitor who has won many Series Races over the years.

New Boats Entering the Harbor

We are pleased to announce Gordon Dill has sold his former boat, a J-111, and purchased a new boat, a C&C 30 One Design. The new boat is called "Don't Panic" and has quite a good race record in One Design racing. She is in Muskegon now and will be sailed down to SJ in the next few weeks. Gordon and his crew has found quite a bit of success racing the past few years with his J/88 and the J/111, and for about 30 years with his Evelyn 32-2 in both JaM and Spinnaker, winning BotY awards. The new boat rates 33 PHRF so we expect to see her at the front of the Spinn fleet.

A Special Note from Ken Zimmerman:

The Junior Foundation is looking for volunteers this Saturday to help clean and wax the little boats for the season. All skippers and crew will be most welcome. Stop by if you can lend a hand starting at 9:30 AM.

We'll see the Spinnaker section on the water for the race to South Haven Friday night, and everyone else next Wednesday at the usual time.

Until then, I wish you fair breezes and smooth sailing.
- *Jim Schrager*

The Windward Sheet, founded 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 sailing season.

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