Sailing 27 November:

Summer Series 3

After a week of gale force winds the forecast high arrived and brought light southerlies. The Electrons suffered from almost no wind early on, but it picked up as the day warmed up and by 1pm there was a good breeze.

A dozen members plus Dan Leahy (left) sailed the racing. Dan will be joining the club once he gets his Seawind, in the meantime he sailed my spare 01. My 100 failed at the start of the first race with a broken wire so I took the club boat.

I won the first race with a good start and led all the way in the club boat. But then I never repeated that performance.

Neil won the next race and then with a couple of 2nd places had the to score for the day with 12. This takes Neil to the lead in the series

Daniel Bush won race 3. Gary Irwin won the fourth race. Race 5 went to Kevin Whitehead.

Dan Leahy was given a division C start in the final race and held the lead all the way around even though he did get lost at one point, but went to the correct mark in time.

Bruce had a string of 2nds and 3rds to be just one point behind Neil in the day score and is now 2 points back in 2nd in the series. Gary had the 3rd day score. Geoff McGill holds on to 3rd place in the series after 3 days and one discard.

From Mikes Eades, USSOA.

Hi Richard,

I continue to monitor your weekly newssheets. Great to see that your SeaWind fleets continues to be very active.

I was puzzled by the comments in your latest issue regarding 2.4 Ghz radio systems that suggest they are very sensitive to antenna positioning and shadowing problems. I still use a very old Spektrum DX6 radio with Spektrum AR6000 RX's in my SeaWind and 36/600 yachts. For the past 4 or 5 years the antenna has been placed inside the case lying across the top of the radio board with the outlet at the top covered by a plastic cap to keep rain out.

Some skippers in Florida found that this works very well and many US skippers do this to prevent antenna breakage and make it more convenient to pack for travel. The system has been extremely reliable and insensitive to antenna orientation in a wide range of conditions and fleet sizes and even at long distances away from the boat.

For my Micro Magic I use a newer Spektrum DX6i radio with two part AR5200 RX again without any dropout or reception issues. The AR6000 Rx, although rated to work with the DX6i radio, did have some dropout issues and I don't use that combination any more.

Many of the alleged dropout issues with Spektrum and other 2.4 Ghz systems are more likely due to low battery voltage powering the RX. I use 6v NiMH batteries for all my on board RX's. It seems that all 2.4 Ghz Rx's get very twitchy at voltages around and below 4.8v although often the specs say they should work. Anyone using 4 AA or AAA alkaline cells will experience dropout issues with 2.4 Ghz systems. I use 5 cell re-chargeable packs which maintain a high enough voltage until the pack is almost exhausted.

Recently several of our skippers have started using the cheap Hobby King or other 2.4 Ghz radio systems without any problems of reception.

Hope this information is helpful?

Regards, Mike

I, too was puzzled by Alan's remarks. I had no blanking problems with the Spektrum DX5e that I used nor the current Hobby King. However the pond is relatively small and the boats do not get more than 100 metres away at most.

Richar Plinston

Next Week(s):

December 4: Aggregate Match Series
December 11: Spring Series 4

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