

Sailing 27 December 2015 and 3 January 2016

Christmas Break

The 27th of December was hot. The heat brought up scrut from the pond bottom. There was a light wind, enough to blow the scrut to the North end (photo below). Later the wind changed and it went to the eastern bay.



Geoff McGill visited the pond after a year or so and sailed 19 with us. His boats are still in pieces due to an unfinished refurbishment. Peter Vernon also came to rejoin us with his boat.

We sailed a few races but were driven away early by the heat.

New Year Break

It had been raining for a few days but on the Sunday afternoon there was just a couple of very light showers. I had expected the pond to be up over the path but it was at its normal level. The wind varied quite a bit in both strength and direction as the formations of clouds went through.

Neil Purcell, Dan Leahy and Bruce Watson had been sailing Electrons in the morning and stayed for some sailing in the afternoon. Bruce hadn't brought his Seawind so he used my old number 1 and it seemed to be sailing faster than my current boat.

A couple of other members turned up and we had some races, changing the course occasionally to match how the wind was blowing.

19 was used by a couple of passers by who showed an interest.

Errata:

In the last report discussing the port and starboard tacks the boat in the lower photo running downwind on port tack was 19 and not 55.

Alternate Seawind Sail sets:

Hi Peter,

I noticed in the minutes of your recent Annual Meeting that you permit use of alternative sails, essentially built as copies of Kyosho Sails. While replacement SeaWind sail sets and indeed SeaWinds in general were unobtainable, we here in the USA determined that in order to keep the fleet growing we needed to develop an alternative source of Sails. The US SCOA Board of Directors agreed we should only approve one or at most two alternatives so as not to generate perceived competition as to whose sails are best.

After a lot of evaluation of candidate materials and candidate suppliers we approved sails from Tippecanoe Boats, Everson, Washington State. The polyester material is very close to Kyosho material and Will Lesh's manufacture produces excellent dimensionally accurate and cleanly sewn sails. One difference that we actually enjoy is that instead of a fiber bolt rope he uses a plastic tube which slides in and out easily. Very simple to install and as it is removed for shipping decreases sail creasing. Will ships the sails rolled inside a large diameter shipping tube with excellent instructions for installing battens (strips of self-adhesive material included). We have found that recent shipments of Kyosho replacement sails, ostensibly for the Readysset versions, come with battens installed and the sails folded and badly creased so that while they are cheaper in the US than the alternative sails skippers have been quite prepared to pay the extra cost for the alternatives.

We have made representations through Kyosho America asking Kyosho Japan to revert to shipping sails without pre-installed battens. They said they would but we have not yet seen any change. Performance-wise there is no detectable difference between Kyosho sails, well broken in and alternative sails but skippers prefer the neat clean look of the alternatives out of the box. Should your members be interested I am sure Will Lesh will ship to NZ but I have no idea of landed cost. Tippecanoe Boats: <http://www.tippecanoeboats.com>

In any event I am glad to see your SeaWind fleet is as active as ever as indeed ours here in Arizona is also! With best wishes to all at Onepoto! Have a great sailing year in 2016!

Regards, Mike Eades, Secretary, US SeaWind COA

Next Week(s):

January 10: Aggregate Match Race 2

January 17: Summer Series FINAL

January 24: Autumn Series START

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

Web site: <http://Azonic.co.nz/NZRYSL/>

Secretary: pfa@Xtra.co.nz