

Sailing Report



During our winter sailing calendar we try to sail once a fortnight if weather permits and the dates for this are on the ORSSC web site or the sailing section notice board in the club. If we are not racing we try to arrange a short sail to Hillarys or Mindarie for the fun of it for coffee or something stronger and enjoy a bit of team building with our crews and friends.

The last few races have been run in differing winds and on one occasion only a few yachts were able to finish the race in the allotted time. It was good to see at least ten yachts on the water for races and thanks to our starters for being there to keep everything official. Dee and her volunteers do an excellent job keeping track of positions, sometimes in difficult circumstances. Our thanks to Kay Centa, Ali Roddis and Vince Rogers who filled in for our regular starters last week and gave Dee a week off. Vince saw firsthand just how involved the start box routine can be and has suggested some of us sailors take a turn in there to appreciate the system.

There are a range of yachts we have at the club that regularly take to the water, they include Farr's 720, Etchells, Space sailors, a Gem and an E boat, Farriers, Courts, Red witches, Masram and others, many of which you can see in the hard stands around the club. There's a sign on the fence of the hard stand giving the telephone number for anyone who would like to go sailing, beside it there are the words "stop dreaming about it and come and do it", about six years ago I did just that.

Racing is always a good way to learn the art of sailing because you can meet likeminded sailors and see how a boat performs under challenging circumstances. Whether you have a top of the range yacht or a small dingy, the principles of sailing are the same, the wind is free, the water is a level playing field [sometimes] and it's a great team builder. During the last winter season Yachting Western Australia arranged a series of lectures from some of Perth's noted sailors like Paul Eldrid, Arthur Brett, Chris Kelly and Brad Devine and others. These sessions were excellent for anyone wanting to improve their sailing knowledge. Later in the year Perth will see some of the top sailors of the world competing in the ISAF Sailing World Championships run in the inner harbour of Fremantle. It will be worth seeing theory put into practice.

During one of these winter lectures Steve Milby encouraged us in the sport of sailing describing it as a wonderfully complex sport, requiring understanding in many subjects such as aerodynamics, hydrodynamics, meteorology, psychology and a complex set of right of way rules. These rules are embodied in the "Blue Book" that every sailing yacht has a copy of and sometimes we even follow them!

In the front of this book, Russell Coutts, three times winner of the Americas cup sums up the process as, rule one win, rule two win again. At our club, we do love to win but more importantly we enjoy the fun and sailing adventures amongst the skippers and their crew, so if you want to be a part of that sailing fun come and join us, you would be most welcome.