

Cobra tales

Victorian Cobra Catamaran

Association: July/2010 newsletter



Try some of these Go-Fast tricks for next season.

-From the Race Secretary

0. Race starts 24 hours before the gun.

1. Fast boat-

What: Your boat is fast by design. Don't slow it down.

How / Why: A few major things that slow it down

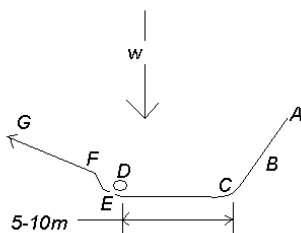
- A. Transom drag – position your (and your crew's) weight so the bottom of the transom is at the surface of the water, not below. Transom drag is like the handbrake. Move back only if it is nosediving.
- B. Rudder alignment. The trailing edges of the rudders should be the same distance between each other as the leading edges, to +3mm at trailing edge. If the rudders are toe out at all, the windward rudder will cavitate upwind. Too much toe in and they will both cavitate downwind.
- C. Windage (aerodynamic drag). Even in light conditions, your body area is a considerable area in comparison to sail area. Keep low on the deck or close to the water where air speed is lower, when heading upwind in light conditions angle your body in the direction of your wind pointer.
- D. Surface drag. Keep one hull one inch off the water as much as possible.
- E. Reduce clutter on the deck.

2. Bottom mark-

What: Approach the bottom mark to allow a (very) short distance (5-10m) to accelerate to a speed higher than normal upwind speed- a very short reach.

How: A Lower the leeward center board first, and before centering the traveler, predict and set the mainsheet position B for the very short beam reach C. Center the traveler as you round on to the reach, the mainsheet should already be set. As the mark passes your bow D pull in the mainsheet to upwind trim and round, before the transom passes the mark sneak in the downhaul E.

Use the boost in speed to gain a small amount of extra height by pointing F. Then go to normal course direction G.



Why: The extra height should prevent the boat in front from tacking in front of you, or give you room to tack, or stop the boat behind from sneaking up.

Precautions: Traffic will muck this trick up if you have to give room. It might be better to approach the mark close and be the inside boat.



COBRA STATE TITLES

LAKE BULLEN MERRI - EASTER 2010

Once again, the Western District Lake, Bullen Merri provided us with an excellent venue for the 2010 cobra State titles. The weather was warm and for the most part the winds were kind, and over the four days of sailing we completed a full series of six races. As Usual, the winds were variable and required a degree of instant reaction to wind changes that made life difficult for the one up skippers, and by the end of the series, they were ready for a hot bath and a relaxing massage.

Yet again, Wes Miles was the sailor to beat, ultimately wining five of the six races. I managed to beat him once, but only by removing one of his side stay shackle pins a few minutes before the first race. That slowed him down a bit, but he and Olivia still ended up with an emphatic title defence.

But it's not all about winning and I must admit that with a strong (14+) fleet sailing, there is always strong competition at all levels of the field. Some surprising results and some not so surprising. Pete Marsh might have to rename his boat Dark Horse as he regularly came through the fleet to finish in a high position. Imagine how well he could do if he trained regularly at Parkdale!!! Also, the young guns were always pushing the leaders with Robbie and Johnny alternating places and often finishing in front of their respective fathers. Matt Dawson and his flyweight crews, Lillie and Harper, continue to improve as they come to grips with the vagaries of Cobra sailing. Rick Nixon and I swapped the minor placings throughout the series with some exciting episodes on the water as we all worked our way through the volcanic crater's wind shifts.

Results:

- 1 Wes Miles / Olivia Toghill Blacklight
- 2 Laurie Bradford/ Sam Stern Redback
- 3 Rick Nixon/ David Gannon Dreamworx
- 4 Pete Marsh Fox on the Rum
- 5 John Bolton Drama Team
- 6 Rob Nixon/Elliot Marshall Dreamotion
- 7 Colin Orchard/ Kelsey Cotton Venom
- 8 Johnny Bolton/ Jason Badrock 2RC
- 9 Stan Blazejewski Livewire
- 10 Matt Dawson/ Lilee Dawson Awesome 2
- 11 Derek Thornhill/Lisa Bolton Foghorn
- 12 Gary Stone/Teresa Stone Nikita

David and Lisa Badrock sailed for one day of the series but didn't enter the state titles. They were as usual well up in the placings on the day they sailed.

Final points scores can be found on cobracat.com

The fleet racing standard has shown vast improvement over the last couple of years to the point where even the most minor mistake in racing puts you back in the middle of the fleet – certainly sharpens the thinking and that can only be good for our class.

If you missed the titles, put them in the diary for 2011 and come along, enjoy the sailing, camping and socializing that are all part of the competition. (There is some rumour going around that Boga may be back on line!)

LEASE BOATS

The lease boat activity has been slow this year with a couple of the boats being leased but not continued with. There has however been a lot of interest flagged for next season with three prospectives having already put in their order, so we look forward to further expansion of the fleet. As we all know the weather has been less than kind this season and maybe this was a major factor.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Our season at Parkdale once again saw a close fought Cobra Championship . The end result was decided on the last race of the season and David and Lisa Badrock relinquished their strangle hold on the Championship to someone else!! (details on Parkdale Y C website) All in all, it was a memorable season with some great racing

Seems there are a number of up and coming sailors (as well as a few that have been around for a while) who have their eyes on the prize for next season, so I suspect that the competition will be HOT!! Just remember, if you want to win the series, you have to sail the series (or more succinctly, if you want to finish first, first you have to finish

AND FINALLY

So we have all put our respective boats into hibernation for winter and of course we know we won't leave all those repairs and maintenance issues til the last minute, don't we?! How many weeks to October???

On another note and just to show you that there are other things happening in the world, I have enclosed a photo of yours truly standing on the front porch of the Lake Eyre Yacht Club. You probably have heard about it, but this proves that it exists. Only gets used about once every 10 years and is about 200 K's from the water at the best of times. It houses a couple of plastic Windrushes – no centre board and virtually no rudder – but proves that the yachting spirit is alive and well even in the most desolate parts of Aus. If you want to see it, it's the most westerly building in Maree, SA – Only about 2,000 K's as the crow flies from Parkdale!!



Anyway, the Cobras are looking forward to another exciting season and wish everyone a most enjoyable layoff Laurie Bradford

Traveler Series Dates:

The Notice of race and entry forms will be distributed when they become available.

Rivoli Bay Seafood Regatta - Cup day weekend 2010 at Rivoli Bay S.A.

Marathoners' Race around French Island - Cowes Yacht club 12 Feb 2011

Sauna Sail - Queen's Birthday weekend at Hazelwood Pondage

We are working on a 4th event, more details to come!

FOR SALE
COBRA CATAMARAN
535 “THE BOAT”



Here's your chance to score a bargain.

This is an excellent entry level to mid fleet boat for you to join the select Cobra Catamaran sailors group.

THE BOAT has heaps of potential if you want to go further.

Sound timber hulls with a good paint surface, very good trampoline and rigging, galvanised steel trailer with sail box, Ronstan fittings and all that you need to go out and race.

Sails are good condition - Goodall main and jib with a spare set for social sailing occasions

\$1450 (very negotiable for members of Parkdale Y C)

But don't delay, as the boat is advertised elsewhere!

See Laurie Bradford for more info or ring 9844 2491