

First Sundays of Winter Frostbiting aren't supposed to be sunny and warm and windy, but 2009's sure started out that way! A nice plane to the racecourse helped many of us work out the cobwebs from months of inactivity before getting in six wild races. Racing for the 30 standard-rigs and 10 radials started in a 15 knot, oscillating Northerly with a general trend to the right early, before dying completely and "filling in" for the finale in a spotty, chilly Southerly.

Britt Hughes and Brendon Shattuck had some beautiful starts and great first legs, and I was awestruck by 210-lb Steve Girling's light air performance. He won one race outright and made huge moves DOWNWIND in others. I've sailed with Steve in Etchells and can attest to his concentration and keen ability to spot the breeze in weird conditions. All that momentum must help too... <big grin>

I had a few bad starts but was able to drag myself up. In such light, weird conditions it's important have clear air and work with what you have, letting others around you make mistakes. I didn't win one race (even though I led a few), but still won the day. In larger fleets and longer events consistency usually triumphs over brilliance, and it sure did today.

Apres-racing drinks and pizza were enjoyed by many, and we had an impromptu discussion about changes to the racing rules of sailing. Hope many of you can make it to the Dave Perry seminar on same at the club on April 29th.

Many thanks to PRO Mike Matan and crew for doing such a great job chasing the wind 'round all day!

Marc Jacobi