



# Cedar Point Yacht Club

*Sailboat Racing at its Best*



## Spring 2007 Frostbiting Week 4 (4/01/07) Report by daily winner Marc Jacobi Ebb Tide

This winter i sailed etchells with Steve Girling. It'd been about 4 months since i sailed a laser, so i got out to the racing area early this sunday and did some tacks and gybes to blow the cobwebs out. being early also gave me time to do a couple of current checks and generally settle in for the day's racing.

Speaking of current: it was a very interesting day for it. At first, there was current going upwind (ebbing) near the committee boat, and basically slack tide near the pin. for this reason I started at the boat the first few times and usually managed to round the first mark in the top ten or so. As the ebb increased, it played more and more to be at the pin, since that placed one closer to the harbor entrance. Ailing upwind on starboard, boats to leeward got pushed upwind by tide coming out the channel, which made them look like monster pointers relative to boats to windward. Upon flopping onto port, the tide was dead astern, fast-forwarding one toward the mark. In the last three races my goal was to two-tack the first beats, and I made it to the top mark first in all three following that strategy.

I checked current after each race. If I had time I'd check at both the finish pin and the start pin to get an idea of any differences between the middle and left sides of the course. knowing what was going on at the starting pin was crucial: I knew exactly in what direction and speed the boat would be moved by the current and adjusted my placement on the line accordingly. Good starts close to the pin allowed me to execute my upwind strategy.

Current played a factor downwind as well. In the first race I was around 12th at the top mark, but knowing the ebb was stronger outside I sailed high on starboard relative to the leaders (who sailed rhumbline or lower) and managed to get around all of them by the leeward mark--a gain of 15 boatlengths! as the day wore on going high initially on the runs became less favorable (one would be sailing directly into the strengthening ebb coming out the channel), so I sailed a lot closer to rhumbline, being aware of the channel tide's effect of pushing one to the left during the top half of the run, and the main tide's effect of being dead on the nose for the second half.

On the final beats right seemed to pay with stronger ebb and no channel-effect to the left. Brit Hughes went pretty hard right on the second beat of the lone WLx2 race we had, and while he looked good at first, didn't seem to gain in the end. On that leg I went right initially to take advantage of the ebb, then sailed a long time on starboard, setting up the second half of the beat to be similar to the first beats to take advantage of the tide coming out of the channel on the left.

There were subtle wave sets and velocity changes going downwind. I just tried to keep the boat going fast all the time, in clear air, and surfed waves when I could. sailing the laser downwind after four months of etchells sailing was relatively easy, as a laser is so much more communicative and responsive. I used heel to steer the boat up or down, made sure to not sail too deep downwind and kept the sheet fairly tight (not way past 90 degrees as some people tend to in lighter winds).

Setup upwind: eased outhaul, very soft cunningham, very little vang except if overstood or in the stronger winds when hiking.

It was a great day for sailing. I hope we see even more people out frostbiting now that the weather is getting warmer!

- Marc Jacobi