

2018Q4 SRC Review

The Ocean races in this quarter had the Freemantle to Bali race, the annual migration south of the Grey Whales and the race up from Maui to Petropavlovsk Kamchatskiy (the Russian naval base) as our races in respectively a Finngulf 43, the magnificent Falkun and a TP52. The Freemantle race was won by DIKKEHENK, a few minutes ahead of aner59 who in turn was four minutes ahead of Kipper1258. The Grey Whale race was run by a relative newbie to SOL, batseba, a protégé of Bimmer, who trashed the fleet to win by a margin of nearly ten hours ahead of Sebensa, another twelve hours ahead of SKOVSER. Clearly there is much for us others to learn in either sailing in these waters or in navigating our Falkun! The race to Petropavlovsk had a tighter finish with five yachts finishing in the first hour. The race was won by WRmirekd, second was Wolff and third was bonknhoot. The Ocean Q4 winner was WRmirekd followed by Bimmer and SKOVSER.

The Timed series offered two races, one being a Tour de Belle Isle in a Beneteau Figaro and the second being a longer race in the Aland Sea in what may have been the virgin race for the new Club Swan 50. Kipper1258 nailed both races with a run of just over 6 hours around Belle Isle, 20 seconds faster than Frangipani, and in the second race Kipper1256 finished in 5 hours 45 minutes just 8 seconds faster than bonknhoot who in turn was 9 seconds ahead of Beliberda. Both timed races had in excess of three hundred runs so it seems that the sailors like challenging themselves in the three weeks the races are open. This open period reduces to about 2 weeks in 2019.

The Sprints had four races in Q4 using a new race the Barcolana in a J-80, allegedly the largest racing fleet ever (glad we did not need to use our fenders), the Nantucket race a short 12 mile race in J-130 yachts which really was a Sprint in the prevailing strong tail winds, a Lake Vattern race that was a pleasant Scandinavian visit in an 11m OD, back to the old days, and a final short race around Isla San Lorenzo off Lima in a Farr 30. Sadlersailing took this series comfortably ahead of Kipper1258 and Frangipani.

Finally the standard 'Other Races' still continue for some as we follow the Golden Globe racers around the world, initially into Storm Bay in Hobart and then back home to Les Sable d'Olonne. In that our routed racers and, even more impressively, our **Seat Of The Pants** racers have eclipsed the 'in real life' racers I do wonder if SRC was far too generous in the Southern Ocean by allowing our Rustler 36 yachts to go so far south. Maybe SRC will have to be tougher in 2022 when another edition of this race is planned. In addition the Shackleton Series has been completed with our whaler/lifeboat (also known as the Drake Longship) getting us all safely home in a time that amazed SRC with a strong following wind. This has left the calendar a bit slack in mid-December. The Christmas to Christmas race is now on and the leaders are converging on Christmas Indian from three distinct directions (North, East and South) and so it was a very fair race. SRC is contemplating running it in a reverse direction next year (Indian towards Pacific)! SRC wonders if anyone would contemplate such diverse routings next year? Finally we have the Tasman double Leg 1 to enjoy as it takes us to a Quiet Little Drink in Hobart and the Rudder Cup from Melbourne into Devonport in northern Tasmania.

The Notices of Race for the sundry Championship Series will shortly be posted on the SOL Home page so take time now to plan for 2019.

Richard / Go4IT
Chair – SRC

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