

# SeaWind Express

Issue 18

Official Newsletter of the SeaWind Class Owner's Association

Fall/Winter 2012

## Tiebreaker Decides 2012 NCR in Arizona

*Eades edges out Martin in closely contested regatta hosted by the class' founding club*

by Al Stiewing and Mike Eades

The 2012 SeaWind NCR returned to the birthplace of the Class for its 8th annual National Championship Regatta. Hosted by the West Valley R/C Mariners in Litchfield Park, Arizona, the 22 competitors, from six states, were treated to perfect Valley of the Sun weather with cloudless skies, temperatures in the upper eighties and unfortunately very light and variable winds.

Race Director Tom Rutledge did an admirable job in very trying conditions to keep things moving squeezing in 11 races with one throw out over the two day event. Zephyrs provided breakaways and opportunities for comebacks while holes (and there many of those) gave the fleet opportunities to reel in the leaders While the lack of wind pleased no one, it did not diminish the camaraderie as everyone made the best of the conditions. To quote Dennis Desprois "it is what it is". And in the end, the cream rose to the top with the top skippers firmly entrenched atop the leader board.

Friday afternoon's practice session was a harbinger of things to come with a light breeze for the early arrivals fading with the afternoon sunlight until by 3:30 the lake became a reflecting pond and all the boats packed it in.

Mike Eades opened the Skippers Meeting with a welcome to all, an introduction of the race committee and then turned the meeting over to Tom Rutledge. Tom reviewed a few of the key Sailing Instructions with emphasis on the experimental 720 rule within the zone which proved to be most effective for reducing infractions in spite of the trying conditions. We expanded the 720 to include the marks within the zone excluding the starting area and starting marks which proved particularly effective in discouraging overly aggressive actions as a bailout 360 was half as painful as trying to clear out and do a 720. What little wind the fleet was able to sail in during the day died by 3PM with the seventh race abandoned when no boat was able to reach the first mark within the time limit.

This ended the days sailing early with Mike Eades holding a 3 point lead over Kelly Martin and Dave Nydell. Eric Rosenbaum held fourth and Rob Shaw rounded out the top five.

Competitors and their spouses gathered on the deck at Angela's in Sun City Grand for an evening of dining and socializing

Sunday morning greeted the competitors with a gentle breeze and the only ripples on the water not created by the local water fowl that the fleet would see all weekend. As the morning wore on and the breeze lightened each race gained increased importance as the likelihood of a second throw out faded with the wind. The racing ended on schedule with only five additional races limiting the fleet to just one throw out for the championship, Mike Eades won his fourth national title on a tie breaker over Kelly Martin while Eric Rosenbaum edged Dave Nydell for third and Dennis Desprois leapfrogged from eighth to five on a strong Sunday performance. *Con't on page 3...*



Top 4 finishers at 2012 NCR, l to r: Eric Rosenbaum (4th), Mike Eades (1st), Kelly Martin (2nd), and Dave Nydell(3rd). Mark Erdich photo.

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by Mike Eades, SW#86

Well, let's get the bad news out of the way; Kyosho recently announced they have discontinued selling SeaWind kits! While this news is a shock and the timing particularly unfortunate, just after the Class had been featured in Model Yachting, by no means are we shutting up shop. Conversations with Kyosho America indicated that typically when Kyosho discontinues a model they do continue to supply replacement parts for a period (how long is another question!). The good news is that shipments of replacement parts and especially sail sets have started to arrive. We strongly advise any skipper anticipate his/her short term needs for spares and place orders with a local Hobby Store or direct on the Kyosho web site. With the number of SeaWinds around gathering dust there is already an active second hand market in boats appearing on eBay and other sites and probably a market in spares will follow.

Your Class Officers and I have taken some actions that we hope will enable the Class to continue for some years, if not indefinitely. First, Andy Rust and Bob Piper have taken the initiative and are starting to draft some proposals for Rules change that will be included in the Class Ballot, scheduled for early next year (more on that below), with the intent of avoiding minor, non-performance related deviations from current rules disqualifying boats from competition. Second, for the intermediate term, anticipating that replacement sails will be the most sought after spares, we had begun a process to

# SCOA: From the Secretary's Desk

measure SeaWind sails accurately and develop specifications for sails with a view to determining if we could establish one or two approved suppliers of alternative US-produced sails should the need arise. Third, for the long term, bearing in mind that the CR-914 Class experienced the same problem a few years ago and were successful in obtaining the technology and molds and have established production of kits in the USA, we have begun to explore that option also. Lastly, with these actions in mind, I have sent a letter to the President of Kyosho Corporation expressing our concern at the decision to discontinue Seawind kit sales and asking  
*Con't on page 3...*

### SCOA Class Officers:

Secretary.....Mike Eades  
Technical Advisor.....Ken Bauser

### AMYA Regional Directors

Region 1 (NE).....Ken Bauser  
Region 2 (NE).....Joe Phillips  
Region 3 (SE).....Darrell Krasoski  
Region 4 (Central).....Andy Rust  
Region 5 (SW).....Bob Piper  
Region 6 (NW).....Doug Lanterman  
Newsletter Editor.....DL Lawrence

## Eades Named Champion at SeaWind Region 6 Championship Regatta

by Mark Erdrich, SW #927

Nine SeaWind skippers came out to compete in the 2012 SeaWind Region 6 Championship Regatta held in West Sacramento, CA on October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Joining eight local skippers was SeaWind Class Secretary and multiple SeaWind National Champion Mike Eades from Arizona.

Mike showed off his skills and consistency, easily winning the 25 race regatta with only 4 finishes below 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Sacramento Model Yacht Club commodore Jeff Romero finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Tom Koop came in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The first day had light but fairly consistent winds allowing us to get in 16 races. The winds did not cooperate the 2<sup>nd</sup> day and though we managed to get 9 short races in the books, it was very light and shifty, leaving the boats with absolutely no wind for minutes at a time.

Special thanks go to Mike Rindflesch for creating the magnificent awards and for bringing in all of the equipment for setting up the race course. Thanks also go to Steve Vazovsky, Cheryl Rindflesch, and Teresa Leach for their assistance as Race Directors and scoring. *See photo, pg. 6*

PLACE	SKIPPER	SCORE after Throw-outs
1	Mike Eades	38
2	Jeff Romero	60
3	Tom Koop	70
4	Mark Erdich	77
5	Dan Robinson	92
6	Mike Rindflesch	107
7	Bill Robinson	140
8	Walt Witt	168
9	Chris Leach	170

### Summary Version

Event: Region 6 Championship  
Class: SeaWind  
Date(s): October 13-14th  
Location: Bridgeway Lakes Park, West Sacramento, CA  
Host Club: Elk Grove MYC  
Entries: 9  
Weather: Sunny mid 80's winds light and shifty 0-7 mph  
Races completed: 25  
Scoring System: Low point, 3 throw-outs  
Regatta Committee & valuable assistants: Mark Erdrich, Mike Rindflesch, Steve Vazovsky, Cheryl Rindflesch & Teresa Leach.

*Secretary's desk, con't from page 2...*

for their help to maintain the vigor of the Class by continuing to supply spares for as long as possible to ease the transition and inquiring whether Kyosho would be willing to transfer technology and molds in the event we are able to establish an interested US manufacturer. I will post updates on the SeaWind Resource Center Forum [www.seawindrc.com](http://www.seawindrc.com) as information emerges.

As mentioned above it is once again time for our biennial Class Ballot. If any member wishes to propose changes to Rules or Bylaws or nominate Officer Candidates please submit them to me by email before December 1, 2012. Proposals will be posted on the US-SCOA page as soon as available after January 1, 2013. This time the main process for voting will be using an active .pdf file to be posted on the US-SCOA page of the SRC web site. Simply download the file, fill in your response, save a copy and email a copy to me. Those members who, in the last ballot, elected to receive paper ballot will of course do so. If any member is not sure if they elected paper ballot but wishes to have one please let me know as soon as possible by email or snail mail.

*NCR, Con't from page 1...*

A special thanks to Race Director Tom Rutledge, ably assisted by Scorer Dirk Brewer and Observer Gary Spendlove for a great job in trying conditions, to Hap McGill for organizing the Saturday night social., to volunteer Pat Barnes, to the organizing committee, Regatta Director Mike Eades, Steve Sherry, Hap McGill, Chuck Goerke and Al Stiewing and, last but not least, to all the gang who helped setup and break camp each day.

**Summary Version**

Event: National Championship  
 Class: SeaWind  
 Date: November 3-4, 2012  
 Location: Litchfield Park, Arizona  
 Host Club: West Valley RC Mariners (WVRM)  
 Entries: 24 (2 were unable to compete)  
 Weather: Light, variable winds, mid 80's.  
 Races completed: 11 (1 discards)  
 Scoring System: Low point, Odds/Evens TWEAT program  
 Regatta Committee and Valuable Assistants: Tom Rutledge, Race Director, Dirk Brewer, Scorer, Gary Spendlove, Observer, Mike Eades, Regatta Director, Al Stiewing, Chuck Goerke, Hap McGill, Steve Sherry & Pat Barnes.

PLACE	SKIPPER	SCORE after Throw-outs
1	Mike Eades	21
2	Kelly Martin	21
3	Eric Roenbaum	28
4	Dave Nydell	35
5	Dennis DesProis	40
6	Jim Ball	46
7	Rob Shaw	48
8	Peter Jennings	48
9	Hal Birkey	51
10	Al Stiewing	52

**Got a Good SeaWind Story or Idea?**

**Tuning tip? Building idea? I'll bet you do!**

**If so, why not submit it in Word format to me, David Lawrence, Editor, and we'll get it published in the next issue of SWE!**

**All submissions are welcomed!**

**[dllawrence@yahoo.com](mailto:dllawrence@yahoo.com)**

**UPDATE!**

Recent email exchanges between Mike Eades, Efrain Manzano, and Akio Utsumi, Class Secretary for the SCOA Japan, indicate that there may be more to the Sea-Wind discontinuation story- We will have more updates as we get them- Please watch the class website for further news at:

[www.seawindrc.com](http://www.seawindrc.com)



Some close quartered racing at the 2012 National Championship Regatta in Litchfield Park, AZ. Photo by Mark Erdich

**SEAWIND EXPRESS  
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*\*Tech Topics Index compiled by Rob Fresh, updated Jan 1, 2012. All issues are available for download at the SeaWind Resource Center website, [www.seawindrc.com](http://www.seawindrc.com)*

## Editor's Corner

*By DL Lawrence, SW #347*

First, let me apologize for being remiss in not getting out a timely November edition of our newsletter. Work has been very busy lately, but I suppose that that is a good problem to have.

Briefly, I would encourage everyone, if you haven't already, to email Efrain Manzano at Kyosho America, and express your support of the SeaWind yacht, and encourage them to not discontinue the kit. As you can see from Mike's contributions to this issue, it would appear that the issue is "not dead yet", as they say. The more support they can see in Japan, the better a chance we have of keeping production alive. You can reach Efrain at:

[emanzano@kyoshoamerica.com](mailto:emanzano@kyoshoamerica.com)

I'm hoping that everyone will send an email to Efrain, he will respond with thanks. He is cataloguing and forwarding all emails to Kyosho Japan.

Finally-- as a reminder-- this is YOUR newsletter. We welcome all contributions large and small that you would like to share with the SeaWind community. Send them to [dllawrence@yahoo.com](mailto:dllawrence@yahoo.com). Thanks, and see you at the pond!

## *An SCOA "Member Moment" with Steve Helander, SW #388*

• **How old are you, what is your occupation, and where do you live?** I'm 42, work in the IT field, and live in Greensboro, NC  
**What was your exposure to sailing?** A friend of mine I flew RC with was building RG65's and footys, and got me interested. We started out social sailing, and then it got competitive ;-). As the club grew, we've scaled up the size of the boats, and the number of folks sailing.  
**What was your first RC vehicle?** I did RC on-road, off road, and

oval racing back in the 80s as a kid. I also did gliders and a little bit of glow flying.

**Your first sailboat?** I wanted a SeaWind, but couldn't find one to fit my budget. I bought a 3<sup>rd</sup> hand Northwind 36 and rebuilt it. I made mylar sails for it, and started trying to keep up with the other Northwinds, and Seawind at our newly formed club. I ended up with my current Seawind, bought on Craigslist. It was built 8 or 9 years ago, put on the water once, and then placed in front of a window.

She was in sad shape cosmetically and structurally when I brought her home, but she got a thorough refit, and has been blinding people on the water for over two years now.

**Do you still, or have you sailed or raced 1:1 scale?** Nothing I would try to take credit for doing other than being an amazing downwind sailor in a sunfish, and a great upwind walker/dragger of the same sunfish.

*Con't on page 6...*

# Eades Takes R3CR at RMYC in Virginia

By Rob Suydam, SW# 346

The Richmond MYC hosted the 2012 Region 3 Seawind Championship on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Weather was comfortable with temperatures reaching into the mid 70s, and sunny conditions. Marc Smith of the Northern Virginia MYC graciously volunteered to RD the event and did a fantastic job of getting in 30 races, as well as developing some very challenging courses. Class Secretary Mike Eades flew in from Arizona to join Region 3 sailors from Florida, North Carolina and Virginia, to compete in what was generally regarded as one of the most polite regattas we sailors had ever participated in.

Winds on Saturday ranged from 3 to 7 mph and were quite shifty in both speed and direction. Getting a good start and maintaining boat speed was critical. Greensboro, North Carolina's Tony Shoaf immediately introduced himself by firing two off two bullets.

Mike Eades subsequently responded with three straight wins. It wasn't until the 6<sup>th</sup> race of the event did RMYC's Randy Pfrunder finally break out and score a win, followed immediately with another win by

Nevertheless, by the end of day one, Mike and Tony had a clear lead over the rest of the fleet.

Sunday's winds contradicted the forecasted drifting conditions and provided ample wind speeds of 5 to 10 mph. The westerly wind direction challenged RD Marc Smith, but with some creative use of triangulation and offset marks, he created some fantastic tactical challenges for us. In fact, while the entire fleet battled an upwind shift on a very short leg up to what was supposed to be the windward offset mark, Steven Helander quite rightly observed, "The hardest leg of the weekend." Like Saturday, both Mike and Tony sailed very well and in the end it came down to consistency and wins. After 30 races and four throw-outs, Mike won 13 races and had no lower a finish than 4<sup>th</sup> to win the event over Tony, who himself scored six wins and scored no lower than 4<sup>th</sup> as well. RMYC's Rob Suydam scored seven wins to take the final trophy position of 3<sup>rd</sup>. Randy Pfrunder scored two wins to finish 4<sup>th</sup>, with Charlie Fawcett and Steve Helander

each scoring a win to finish 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> respectively, but not without drama. After 30 races just five points separated 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

The RMYC would again like to thank RD Marc Smith for volunteering his time to help us put on our first championship event. We would also like to thank the Sunday Sloopers from Florida, the Greensboro MYC sailors from NC, and of course Mike Eades for traveling to our event. We would also like to thank Bobbie Lawrence and Nancy Cole for the great food they provided us, as well as Bobbie scoring the 30 race event. Lastly, my personal congratulations to DL Lawrence who really is the one who made this entire event come together.

## Summary Version

Event: 2012 Region 3 Seawind Championship Regatta  
 Class: Seawind  
 Date: September 29 and 30, 2012  
 Location: Glen Allen, Virginia  
 Host Club: Richmond MYC  
 Entries: 11  
 Winds: 3-10 mph  
 Races Completed: 30  
 Scoring System: Low Point



Rob Suydam, #346, leads the fleet back upwind at the R3CR in Richmond, VA. Darrell Krasoski, #76, heads upwind on the opposite tack. 30 races were completed during the two-day regatta schedule. Bobbie Lawrence photo.

PLACE	SKIPPER	SCORE after Throw-outs
1	Mike Eades	47
2	Tony Shoaf	57
3	Rob Suydam	86
4	Randy Pfrunder	131
5	Charlie Fawcett	133
6	Steve Helander	136
7	David Lawrence	160
8	Ron Small	187
9	Darrell Krasoski	202
10	Al Anderson	204
11	Bruce Bimbach	213



Winner, winner, chicken dinner!! “The Podium” at the 2012 Region 6 CR, left to right...note the personalized trophies– cool! Mike Eades, Jeff Romero, Tom Koop. See Mark Erdich’s regatta report, on page 2. Photo by Mark Erdich

#### Member Moment, from page 4...

**Best advice for someone new to the hobby?** The most important thing to remember is that this is supposed to be FUN!!! Find a local club, and see what they sail. Ask a ton of questions before buying a boat, radio, etc. Someone will almost certainly hand you a transmitter if you visit the lake. Used boats pop up at the local club level. There will be greater support in building and tuning with classes that are actively sailed. Unless you have your heart absolutely set on a single model of boat, keep yourself open to what is being sailed locally. The fun loses its luster pretty quick when you have the only one of something, and everyone else is sailing something

#### What other interests do you have other than RC sailing?

RC Flying (Sailplanes, indoor electric, etc), full scale aviation, model railroading/scratchbuilding, off road exploring, and spending time with my family. My daughter flies and sails, and functions as our scorekeeper when she shows up at the lake.



#### Top 10 Reasons to Travel to a Regional or National SeaWind Regatta

1. It's competitive, and FUN
2. You'll meet interesting people with a common interest, get to know them, and swap some sailing stories over dinner and/or your favorite beverage
3. You'll probably be competing against skippers who are better than you– at a really great venue - there's no better way to improve your skills!
4. The weather is usually better there than where you currently are
5. You'll probably get to meet our Class Secretary, Mike Eades, before he kicks your butt on the course
6. If you fly, you'll learn how to break down, pack, re-assemble, and tune your boat lickety-split
7. You'll see some SeaWinds with some *very* cool paint jobs (especially if Charles Samaha is there!)
8. There is wealth of experience and knowledge on building, rigging, and tuning SeaWinds there for the taking– just ask! These guys love to talk about their boats
9. If you fly, you might be lucky enough to receive a TSA pat down
10. Did I mention that it's FUN?