

radio SAIL

Edition # 2005/02 September 2005

The official newsletter of the Pacific region  owners club

Winter 2005 has been a period of both consolidation and growth for the RC Laser downunder. The numbers continue to grow and it is great to see more & more sailors getting together for racing & social sailing.

Corporate Training



Active fleets with regular sailing timetables have developed in Sydney & Melbourne and the number of RC Lasers sailing in mixed fleets around the country increases each week. The RC Laser is rapidly establishing itself as one of the most popular classes in Australia. A lot of our focus over the winter has been to actively encourage growth of the racing and social sailing scene, bringing boat owners together

Getting together with fellow owners is not only a lot of fun, it is also a terrific way to improve your sailing and also to pick up useful tips on boat care and performance. For details of how to join up with fellow sailors in your area contact Cliff Bromiley at cliff@radiosail.com.au. Don't miss out! And don't be intimidated if you are inexperienced. The clubs exist first & foremost to promote participation for fun. The more experienced sailors are always willing to help newcomers.



The RC Laser is finding itself a niche in the corporate training/corporate events arena. The event pictured above was held at Clontarf Reserve in Sydney was an outstanding success for all involved. After a familiarisation sail, the group was split into teams for a series of exciting races. It proved to be a great team-building exercise in a competitive, safe environment with everyone starting on an equal footing. None of the participants had previously experienced RC sailing with only two out of the twenty having had any sailing experience. We had some enthusiastic sailors by the end of the day.

Dress up your boat

As you know the RC Laser comes supplied with vinyl tape for you to personalise your boat. By the time you are reading this we will also have available 'class approved' vinyl hull transfers in a range of colours (keep an eye on the web-site news). We get a lot of contact on our web-site from overseas sailors. The boat pictured is owned by Carlos Simoes from Portugal send us a piccie of your boat for our next issue.



Have you checked out our new web-site

If not get surfing as there is a lot of information about how to get the best out of your RC Laser as well as details about racing fleets and events. We have also added features that enable YOU to have your say – as well as a forum, you can post NEWS and comment on other pages. Register on the site & you will receive access to additional material

www.radiosail.com.au

This newsletter relies on your input – tips, anecdotes, photos and the like
Send your contributions to the editor on e-mail : cliff@radiosail.com.au

Rodd Point Action



Rodd Point in Sydney has proven to be an excellent venue with great sailing all through winter. All 3 sails have had their days & we have been getting good attendance. The focus is on having fun & new sailors are always welcome.



Waterways - Melbourne

The inaugural Victorian RC Laser fleet is meeting on Saturday afternoons at Waterways in Melbourne's southeast. The venue gets a huge rap from the sailors with good wind, water and access. The group gets 8-10 boats on the water on good days & is looking forward to more sailors joining up during the summer. For information contact Derick Warne on 0438 563164

TIP OF THE DAY

Jon Elmaleh's Tuning Tips

Because of the simplicity of the RC Laser rigging, there is a relatively small range of possible adjustments. Because there are so few, they are fairly critical, and proper tuning can considerably improve the boat's performance.

The two major sail adjustments are **foot curve** and **leach twist**. In light wind, adjust for *substantial foot curve* and a *light twist*. In a heavier wind, aim for a *small foot curve* and *less twist*.

Determining the proper amount of foot curve for a given wind condition:

A good indicator is that the boat should be able to sail itself going to windward (neutral helm). Too much weather helm (the boat rotating into the wind) indicates that you need to flatten the foot curve. A leeward helm (the boat falling off the wind) shows the need for an increased foot curve.

If the water is choppy;

Increase twist so you don't stall the sail. A little windward helm is acceptable in these conditions since it helps you find the wind.

Knowing when to switch rigs;

While sailing downwind, if the bow begins to dive, switch to a smaller sail. Sometimes a drop in rig size right before diving becomes a problem can make the boat a bit easier to sail. Experience will help you determine when to change rig size.

Setting boom position;

I like to sail upwind with the boom just inside the aft corner of the stern. I set the fine control on the controller so I can centreline the boom just in case I need to pinch for a buoy. Pinching allows the boat to go upwind at a close angle to the wind but it severely limits boat speed and should not be attempted for any distance. With the boom just inside the aft corner of the boat, you will find that the Laser moves well to windward.

These tips should give you a good start on fine-tuning your RC Laser's performance.

For sales and info about the **RC Laser** contact

RADIO CONTROL
SAILING
AUSTRALIA



w www.rudiosail.com.au

e fun@radiosail.com.au

t (02) 9954-0755