

DF 95 Group News update No 4

February 2021



Hi Guys,

The 2021 sailing season is now well underway with several race days now under our belt, the weather has treated us well especially in the last few weeks with light to moderate east to south east winds making for great scratch and handicap sailing. Several new members have joined our DF 95 fleet and we all would like to welcome along Jason Pearce (awaiting a sail no), Kevin Harris 115, Martin Roccliffe 666 and Bob Scott 167 a former member of our club, we look forward to seeing you all on the water. Also, long time Club member Ray Richardson 344 has recently purchased a new DF 95 and we should shortly see joining our fleet, welcome Ray.

1, February DF 95 Sailing Programme 2021

- Friday 5 th Scratch Racing 11.30 am set up, sailing starts at midday
- **Sunday 7 th No sailing as the Dragon Boat rowing regatta is on at Emerald Lakes**
- Friday 12 th 1st Club Scratch championship race set up 11.30 am set up racing starts at midday. More on this event later in this newsletter.
- **Sunday 14 th Secondary day scratch racing, with member assistance with yacht tuning, and race rules discussion set up 11.30 am. sailing starts at midday.**
- Friday 19th 1st Club Handicap Championship race day, set up 11.30 am, racing underway at Midday.
- **Sunday 21 st Secondary sailing day Handicap racing, set up 11.30 am, sailing starts at midday**
- Friday 26 th General Scratch Racing, set up at 11.30 am, sailing underway at midday.
- **Sunday 28th th another scratch day, 11.30 am set up, sailing at midday.**

No 2, Friday the 12 th of February Championship racing begins for 2021

The first of 10-scratch race championship days begins for the year this February on Friday the 12 th, with the race series finishing in November and the presentation of trophies at the clubs end of year Christmas function and prize giving on the 11 th of December.

It has been decided to elevate this series in importance to a similar level to that of a State championship. Therefore, a full time Race officer will be appointed along with a couple of observers and a scorer, this will allow all DF 95 Skippers to concentrate on sailing all races programmed for the day. Also, by having a full time Race officer, he will be able to ensure the rules of yacht racing are complied with and as Ros have the necessary powers to act, he will take action when required.

While we want all skippers entered to enjoy their race day, we need to ensure Rule compliance. A read of the PRYC standard Sailing Instructions published in December 2020 is highly recommended. A copy of which can be found on the club's website.

No 3, Important DF 95 Major Sailing event Dates & Venues

For those Skippers interested to complete in annual major DF 95 Class race events, here is the dates and venues for you record in your diaries,

- National Australia DF 95 Championship, to be held in Hobart, Montrose bay, Tasmania between the 14 th to the 19th of October at the RBRYC a 3-day event assuming there are sufficient entries. Check on the ARYA website for further details including notice of race information.
- The Queensland State DF 95 Championships to be held at Newport Brisbane, between to 30th of July until the 1st of August (2-day event) at the MRYS club. Again, please check the QRYA website for further details, it would be great to set a large number of entries from the PRYC at this event.
- South Queensland DF 95 Championship at Emerald Lakes hosted by our club on Sunday the 21 st of March, the notice of race details due shortly.
- DF 95 Open Invitation race day at the MRYS Newport on Saturday the 22 nd of May. A good opportunity for those Skippers who plan to enter the State Championships to get to know the waters at Newport.
- Whitsunday Race week for DF 95s, 6 days of racing to be held at the Dam at Strathdickie approx. 12 kms from Airlie Beach, and will be run by the Whitsunday Model Boat Club.
- The second South Queensland DF 95 championship race day to be held on Saturday the 14 th of August at Springfield Lakes and hosted by the SLMM CLUB, a one-day event.

- **The North Queensland DF 95 Championship series a 2-day event to held on September Saturday the 25 th & Sunday 26 th at Strathdickie Dam, some 12 kms in land from Airlie Beach and hosted by the WMBC. Some of our skippers have expressed an interest to attend, let's know who else may wish to go.**

So aside from our full club season at Emerald Lakes there is an extensive state and National sailing programme for DF 95s. I hope a number of you take the chance to participate in these major events.

No 4, DF 95 Hull, Sail Registration & Yacht Compliance

Over the past couple of months, the correct register listings with the DF Association for the PRYC members of DF 95 yacht sail numbers and Hull serial numbers (HSN) has been brought up to date. As you are aware the Hull serial number is made up of your yachts year of purchase combined with the sail Number, hence a boat purchased on 2019, which has the sail no 145, has a HSN of 10145. This hull serial number must be displayed on your yachts deck in letters no less than 20 mm high.

DF 95 Club Member Graham Cowling has kindly offered at no charge to all DF members a set of your individual HSN number printed on a waterproof, self-adhesive material you can place on the deck of your hull. Thank You Graham. Those interested please let me know as I have the list of those wishing to accept his offer.

The next plan of action is to get our fleet of DF95 s compliant with the class rules, which is required when entering National, State and / or major events. It is our wish to produce for you all a copy of the class compliance rules which will include recent additions and alterations. During our secondary sailing days on Sundays, we are looking to discuss the requirements further. However, in the meantime if any of you have any questions or are seeking some clarification please let me know,

No 5, Finally some Good News for DF owners

In early January the containers carrying Parts and new Boats for Hobby Warehouse finally arrived in Melbourne which was a great relief for many DF 95 & DF 65 boat owners who were becoming concerned with the shortage of spare parts, some owners could sail just, with parts that had a temporary repair while others who had experienced hull damage some of which were beyond repair needed new hulls. Then there were a large Number of prospective new members to our club and the DF 95 Fleet who were waiting to purchase new boats.

So, Hobby Warehouse report that the DF Parts and new Boat sales over the past few weeks has been considerable. May we suggest to all DF 95 boat owners you purchase as spares items such as, Sail winches, Rudder Servos, On / off switches, Bowies, Bungs, Receivers, just in case future supplies are delayed due to COVID-19, shipping issues / delays etc.

No 6, Some General Items, House Keeping

- Please remember the Club want to ensure all members remain Healthy and safe, so the rules we have in place to try a control the spread of Covid-19, hence ensuring we continue to socially distance ourselves. Plus, if you feel unwell, think you have a possible health issue please do not come to sailing.
- Thank you all again for your help to set up our equipment prior to racing and to you all for cleaning and returning all the gear and equipment to the shed, “Many Hands to make light work “
- Can I please ask that all rubbish, food waste or general waste items are placed in the Council supplied rubbish bins found around the lake edge?
- Filling in the entry for the days racing prior to the commencement of sailing is also most important, not only do we need to know the fleet size but it is a COVID-19 control requirement so we know who is in attendance, if we were to have a spot check visit from the authorities who monitor people’s movements and Covid-19 restrictions and compliance issues.
- As we have a few drinks after sailing on Fridays and Sunday over at the Emerald Lakes Golf & Leisure Club, we have been invited to join as a social member. The cost is \$10.00 from now until March 2023. There is a number of benefits afforded member’s which can be found upon enquiring at the food counter. I do have membership application forms available upon request.

No 7, LiFe Battery Care Information

Recently several DF 95 boat owners expressed interest in how to care for LiFe 6.6-volt battery which many members use in their boats. Also, how to recover them when the voltage in one of the cells drops below 2 volts or lower and is considered dead flat. Graham Cowling offered the following insight to such issues, something all users of these types of batteries will find most interesting.

I have recovered your failed **LiFe** 6.6vdc battery and have BALANCE CHARGED it on Balance Charger AFTER I had first checked each cell, finding one was partially charged (still above the Critical Cut off voltage) and the other cell well below the Critical cut off voltage - it was at **0.16v dc** - Yes Dead flat! When a Cell becomes discharged Below the Critical Cut off voltage, other chemical reactions begin to occur inside the battery, where Plating effect between the Anode forms and increases the Internal Resistance, thus making it harder to charge it, AND GAS forming which causes the cell to SWELL... Usually only One cell will fail, which can be caused by either Internal resistance (Plating effect) forming) .. OR Improper Charging process, where it has NOT been Balance Charged.

It is Most important that these Lithium type batteries (LiFe 6.6v and LiPo 7.2v) be charged CORRECTLY.

DF65 and DF95 can use LiFe 6.6v dc battery in place of the normal 4xAA Alkaline type batteries.

The Balance charger when used requires **BOTH leads on the LiFe Battery to be connected to your Charging unit**, set up as LiFe Battery / Balance and when start is pressed, make sure your Charger is set as **2s** .. This means there are **2** cells connected in **Series**. Each cell will charge to 3.3v and 2 cells in series will give 6.6v dc.

Attached please find document that will further assist you.

This document is also available with other helpful information on our PRYC Web site.
http://www.paradiseradioyachtclub.com/images/RC_YACHT_BATTERY_INFORMATION.pdf



So, February is going to be a big month for DF 95 s with some 7 days of Racing, hopefully getting 12 races completed each of the days, plus our first of 10 Scratch race championship series, Let's hope we have favourable weather, and as our fleet grows in size and our skippers become more experienced in handling 95 s and as the knowledge of the racing rules becomes better known and understood close competitive racing will evolve, and the the competition for the top winners positions will lead to really enjoyable sailing. All the best to you all, looking forward to seeing you on the water.

**Ron Brown 880
Fleet Captain**