



Lake George, South Australia - an image taken from Google Earth showing Chris Dimond's tracks on Sunday. It is clear to see the variety of wind directions, and even a detour taken in the northern lake to climb a sand dune.

This event continues to grow in popularity as 28 entrants attended this year's speed event at Lake George titled 'Speedcamp 06' to reflect the remote nature of the event site and the preferred form of accommodation for many.

As in previous years, the event promotes the spirit of friendly competition, and aims to further the race scene in South Australia. We have an increasing demand for flat water events here, and with the rise of GPS speed sailing, we should see quite a few more events throughout the coming months, and certainly the promotion of 'Speedcamp 07' in the coming year.

The weather forecast looked promising in the lead up to the weekend, but the reality of it gave us perfect fishing / surfing / drinking weather on Saturday, with sailors hitting the water very early on Sunday morning for a full day of competition. Due to the variety of GPS units used by the entrants, it was decided to record peak GPS screen read-out speeds only for this event.

Sunday started early with a northerly at around 12 knots which saw most sailors hit the water for some tuning, in the hope of the predicted 20-30 knots forecasted. This wind soon dropped out, and was replaced with a westerly of similar strength. This built steadily to around 15-18 knots and many sailors (including myself) opted for an early lunch ready for a long afternoon on the water. Mistake! This wind soon dropped out too, leaving Scott McClusky in the lead with a 58.4 km/h run, and many of us with full stomachs and standing around wishing we'd just kept sailing. At this stage, a few sailors had been caught out, so the boat was launched to tow in many from as far as 2 kilometres away as there was not even enough wind to 'glug' back to the beach.

The wind returned from this direction, and sailors entered the water on both the northern and southern sides of the spit looking for clear wind, flat water, and the opportunity to gain the lead. The wind again varied a little, but soon settled into a solid 20 knot south westerly and all sailors were pushing themselves and their gear on the southern side of the spit in an effort to gain some extra speed. This breeze stayed in for a couple of hours and moderated a little, but was enough to give the final results as listed below.

Monday is always considered a back-up day should we need it to get a result, however it was not required this time. Most sailors headed home early, however, some of us ventured off into the amazing sand dunes adjacent Lake George for some 4wd'ing and beach fishing, with Steve Schuurmans taking out the prize for his mighty 5cm mullet (taken on light gear). He rounded out his day with an afternoon sail back on Lake George in a light but steady 10 knot sea breeze.

Results

1st - Chris Dimond (North Sails, Exocet) 62.4 km/h (33.91 knots)
2nd - Scott McClusky (Naish Sails, Caveman) 60.0 km/h (32.6 knots)
3rd - Carl MacDonald (Neil Pryde, Starboard) 59.8 km/h (32.5 knots)

4th - Tim Hemer 57.1 km/h (31.03 knots)
5th - Andreas Nehls 56 km/h (30.43 knots)
6th - Ian Robinson 55.2 km/h (30.0 knots)
7th - Cameron Steele 54.7 km/h (29.72 knots)
8th - Kym Roberts 52.6 km/h (28.58 knots)
9th - Brett Denning 51.7 km/h (28.09 knots)
10th - Richard Upton 50.8 km/h (27.6 knots)
11th - Sam Doecke 50.1 km/h (27.22 knots)
12th - Dale Keating 48.7 km/h (26.46 knots)
13th - Darren Zub 47.6 km/h (25.86 knots)
14th - Michael Sykes 47.5 km/h (25.81 knots)
15th - Geoff Shuttleworth 47.1 km/h (25.59 knots)
16th - Ross Treadwell 46.3 km/h (25.16 knots)
17th - Ben Howell 41.0 km/h (22.28 knots)
18th - Scott Blackham 40.7 km/h (22.11 knots)

Another 10 entrants did not post any speeds.

Thanks

This event was made more enjoyable (and safer) with the generous help, support and assistance of the following:

- Onboard Surf, Wind, Snow at Glenelg - safety boat, organisation, prizes, and their continuing support of GPS speed sailing events;

- Adelaide Shores Marine - safety boat (with captain) and Garmin GPS units at great prices;
- Blown Away Winery - generous prizes of bottles of wine;
- Ben Howell - generous prizes of dinner vouchers to his restaurants;
- Matt Stringer - all-round legend, and happy to just come along and help out with all aspects of event organisation;
- Bert Swalue - for his incredible didgeridoo playing around the campfire;
- The Geelong Boys (Cameron, Brett + Dale) for making the effort,
- The Sydney boy (Sam Wall) for making the effort,
- Windsurfing SA / Australian Windsurfing Association (John Rohde), for providing the framework under which we can organise and run an event like this.

Coming Events

The following are a list of definite and possible events in the near future:

- Speedweek, Sandy Point Vic - November 4th - 12th. Refer www.speedweek.org
- South Australia v's Victoria in a 1 hour challenge - during the month of February. Losing state buys winning state a carton of Coopers Pale Ale.
- Further GPS speed events at Boggy Lake, Goolwa, Tauwichee Barrage are all possible.

Thanks to all for entering and enjoying!

Chris Dimond AUS06