

## Fleet 13 Vakaros Report

Feb 3, 2025

I sailed with Jim Madden on 1477. Both the Sid Dorean and the Florida State Championships utilized the Vakaros Atlas 2 and Race Sense Starting System summarized here:

All teams checked in with the Vakaros Representative by scanning the QR code on the device and then setting up the boat profile which allowed the functionality authorized by the OA. Same whether the unit was owned or rented.

In the case of the Sid Dorean event, we were allowed to use heading, tack prompt, timer and distance to the line (DTL). 2 functions controlled by the RC were the OCS messaging function which tells you if you are over immediately with a red light and OCS on your device is BIG letters. This goes green once you clear. The other function is they set the timer for you so know need to get your timing correct. It's done for you. In the case of some races, it would start the countdown at 20 minutes. We had one start where it started at 6 minutes. It was usually some where between 15 and 10 minutes.

For the FSC regatta last weekend, the device has full functionality meaning we had Heading, cog, song, tacking prompt, heel, pitch and the same Race Sense functions provided by the RC.

My feeling that the use of Vakaros helps even the playing field. The well-tuned teams are better at line sights and trigger pulls to use their time and distance skills to het the line on time. With the DTL function, you always know where the line is so it's a matter of understanding what it takes in different wind strengths to get to full speed at the gun and be on the line. For us who were brand new to Vakaros, we practiced one day before each event and spent two 1-hour sessions doing some drills with a coach to figure out our timing. This changes for the wind strength and traffic but 2/1 meters to seconds worked for medium breeze and smooth water in a training session. Sadly, we found in traffic on a 40-boat fleet in lighter air that was not enough time. Still a lot to learn but I think it's not that hard to adjust and a good tool to have instead of a crew guessing DTL.

My ranking of the importance of the functionality of the options we used:

Heading, Race Sense (Timer and OSC messaging), Heel, DTL would all be of high importance

SOG, tacking prompt function would be of less importance. Reasoning is SOG can be a bit of a distraction and we didn't set up the tacking prompt till the last race so I don't understand who to best use it.

Pitch, VMG functions and the angle or starting pages we never displayed.

In Summary, I think this is a good advancement for our class and would like to see our fleet adopt the use of the Vakaros earlier than the 2025 NAs in May. The OA can fine tune the functionality with guidance from Fleet 13, OA of the NA's and Worlds. It's only going to make us better Etchells sailors, especially the Corinthian teams.

Sincerely, Chris Busch

Etchells Fleet 13 Member, IGC Member, ODTC Advisor