

ARE YOU 90/10 OR 10/90?

The evolution of sailing skills, during a person's lifetime, could be described as beginners spend 90% of their time and effort learning how to trim the sails and rig the boat with 10% of their time learning navigation as they follow the fleet around the race course. Eventually there is a moment in time when 90/10 will become 10/90 as your boat will be leading the fleet to the windward mark and your navigational skill to tack the boat on a proper lay line will determine the winner of the race. This very event occurred in the LBYC Fall Series with Free Spirit and Doc Darlins tied for first place going into the fourth race of the Fall Series. Doc Darlins used the magnetic bearing to tack to the weather mark and not the tracking bearing. This error of not hitting the lay line on the boat's tracking bearing cost a skilled sailing crew a First Overall for the Fall Series. I feel sure Doc Darlins will have a designated navigator for the next race, who will have tracking, mark bearing, speed and distance to the windward mark properly displayed and communicated to the crew of Doc Darlins.

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