Racing Radio Controlled Sailboats

Reported by Ian Elliott

The *GONE WITH THE WIND*Regatta for EC12 (East Coast 12 Meters) radio sailboats was held April 10-11 in Lawrenceville, GA. with 16 competitors from California, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina attending. This was one of (20) 2 day regattas scheduled for this year for this class. The weather was a typical Atlanta spring day -



sunny, warm, with light and variable winds. The racing began shortly after the competitors meeting with 16 races completed on Saturday and 4 races on Sunday (lack of wind). The course was a Windward/Leeward course with an exaggerated off set mark and gates. Racing was tight at times (see pictures)



and any protests were dealt with on the water. Saturday night the skippers, wives and quests were invited to a local skippers house - Skip Allen - for snacks, drinks and a low counboil dintrv ner. Discussions about the days racing and some good old teasing took place and a great time was had by all hmmm sounds like an AYC event!

Racing radio controlled sailboats is slightly different than racing our one designs - shorter courses which allow for more races and you are skippering from



shore vs on the boat. Radio controlled racing uses the same US Sailing Rules as one designs, in fact there is a section in the US Sailing Rules which discusses the Radio Controlled racing rules. As you



can see from the pictures, the size of the boats are ideal for getting that "real" feeling for sailing. The EC-12 is a restricted one design radio controlled model yacht class with fiberglass hulls made from near identical molds and otherwise restricted to similar construction. The result is a class of boats with



similar speed potential. The goal, as in any good one-design class, is to have the skipper's tuning, tactics, and boat handling abilities determine the out-



come. Also, the class wants the newest boats competitive with the 20-year old models, and equally competitive boats from all manufacturers. A stable class organization and a stable Class Rule has allowed this to hap-

pen. EC12 website:(http://www.ec12.org/index.htm)
