



Windsurfing SA Incorporated PO Box 7022, Hutt Street, Adelaide 5000

## ***The Windsurfing SA Bay and Back Challenge***

One of the upcoming events on the Windsurfing SA calendar is an Open Ocean downwind race from Seacliff to Semaphore in February. We don't seem to practice this type of "off the wind" racing around here much, so Windsurfing SA has mapped out a smaller "practice" course for people to cut their teeth on. The course runs from the Seacliff Pub Reef marker pole and around the Northern Glenelg Blocks marker pole. There is no organised event - just take the course on one day with a couple of mates when you think the conditions are suitable and safe. Let's record some times to see how everyone is going.

### **Course description**

The total one-way distance as the crow flies is 5.8 km or 3.1 nm (see figure). At 30 knots board speed this would take 6.2 min, and get you a great nautical mile speed for the GPS speed sites. This assumes you could actually travel in a straight line point to point (perfect conditions required!). Also, it is really hard to sustain 30 knots in chop :-). The trail on the map was set by an Exocet Kona at considerably slower speeds :-).



Start line: Pass to the seaward side of the Seacliff Pub Reef marker. The start line is a seaward extension of the line between the pub and the marker.

One way finish line: A line between the northern marker pole of the Glenelg Blocks and the big flagstaff at the very end of Anzac highway. You need to leave the pole to starboard, which means in a sea breeze rounding up as you to cross the line. This adds an extra degree of difficulty, and makes sure that 2 sailors don't collide at speed in the unlikely event they decide approach the pole from opposite directions.

Return finish line: As same as the start line.

Remember, you sail at your own risk. Only you can decide if the sailing conditions are safe for you and your equipment. Consider carrying a mobile phone in a waterproof pouch. It's a long walk back if the wind drops. In the interests of self preservation:

- Don't sail within 10 m of the marker poles.

- Don't sail between the North and South Poles marking the Glenelg blocks. The blocks are exposed at low tide and covered at high tide. They are big, sharp and ugly. If you haven't seen them before, check them out from the Glenelg jetty before your run so you know exactly what the layout is.

- Don't sail within 100 m of the Glenelg or Brighton jetties or any anchored boat (it makes the fishermen aggro).

- Don't do the course in offshore winds.

- Do sail in control. It's faster and less dangerous. Crashing is slow. Make a few short trial runs at the course angles expected for the day to make sure you and your kit are up to it.

- Sail with a mate and keep an eye out for each other.

## Results

Just for a bit of fun, let's collate some times. Post your results to [seabreeze.com.au](http://seabreeze.com.au) with details of your equipment, wind and water conditions and comments. Post your GPS data on a speed site if you use one. Use this format thanks:

Sailor:

Date:

Time of day:

Wind speed:

Wind direction:

Board:

Sail:

Fin:

One way time (Seacliff to Glenelg):

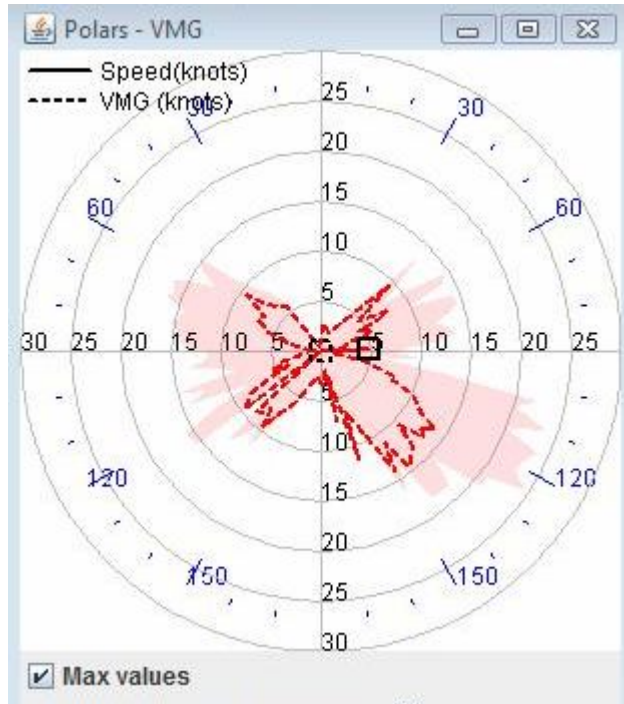
Return time (if done):

Comments:

## Sailing notes

You can launch at Kingston Park or Seacliff Boat Ramp.

If you have a GPS, plot your polar diagram using GPS Action Replay to find your VMG (Velocity Made Good to the wind direction). It can be hard to decide if pinching and going slower is the fastest way upwind or downwind, and vice versa. Here is a polar for an Exocet Kona doing the course with a 7.5 sail and the centreboard up all the time (there and back). Wind was not quite enough to be fully powered up off the wind.



Pick the onshore bends in the wind due to the shoreline, and use them to your advantage if you can.

Don't expect the wind to be the same all over the course, especially a SSW which can be fluky at Seacliff and howling at Glenelg.

Weed can be a problem at certain times of the year.

If you are new to Seacliff, a sea breeze will suddenly swing offshore sometime between 2 pm and 8 pm :-(. We have all swum our gear in at least once! You can spot the shift about to happen because the wind picks up a few extra knots for 10-15 min, then goes patchy. An onshore gradient wind in the morning will mean a sea breeze late into the day. An offshore gradient wind in the morning will mean a sea breeze that could turn offshore at any time. Look on the web, and if you see Noarlunga has gone offshore, you have about 1 hr of sea breeze left at Seacliff. The offshore shift starts at Sellicks and makes it's way north up the coast.