

Sail Clever Software for Windows Mobile Devices

Sail Clever is a relatively new racing software for PDAs or smartphones running Windows Mobile Versions 5.0 or 6.0. Unlike the navigation-oriented software reviewed in the December 2009 issue, Sail Clever is aimed squarely at the serious club racer.

One interesting feature of the Sail Clever software is that it can be wirelessly networked with the NX2 instrument network from Nexus. It can also wirelessly interface with B & G, Raymarine, and TackTick networks, although this is slightly more complicated. So, unlike the Velocitek devices described in the accompanying article, a PDA running Sail Clever can include GPS data (from your boat's GPS), through-the-water data (collected by knot log and electronic compass), and windspeed data (gathered at the masthead). It also wirelessly transmits data back to Nexus NX2, B & G, and TackTick systems, so it can then be shown on system instrument displays. All the wireless links are made using Bluetooth protocol, requiring a separate dongle, which costs about \$100.

Like some of the charting software we reviewed in past issues, Sail Clever lets you plug in your boat's polar data and then shows how close you are sailing to target boat speed. But that is just one on the long list of race-oriented applications.



A Bluetooth dongle (above) links the PDA (right) to the boat's network. The Sail Clever software graphically displays performance data.

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Before the start, you can ping each end of the line, which allows you to determine line bias, distance to the line, and favored tack. During the race you have access to seven custom views, including a sail selection chart and tide correction for laylines, time to laylines, and favored tack. After the race, you can see a leg-by-leg review of how well you performed based on your polars, and replay the race with all function screens.

Currently, demo downloads are available at the Sail Clever website (www.sailclever.com). The software is \$299, or \$249 through Dick Booth, a Florida Nexus dealer (d_booth@verizon.net). We will be doing more thorough on-the-water test in the future and invite any Sail Clever users to send their comments on the product to practicalsailor@belvoirpubs.com.

