

Course Size

by Don Mock

I thought I'd take a moment to tell you a few details on the typical R/CU race course we run on. When the "Czar" and I were running our 1/6th scales in Ellensburg, the course I'd set up seemed surprisingly tiny to us. The small size isn't as noticeable with our 1/8th scales, probably because they turn so well, compared to our big barges. But this got me thinking about course sizes, and if we were at all close to running "scale" courses. When I got home, I grabbed my calculator. Here's some numbers. The average measurement of the courses we set up for our races are (depending on the site) about 325' to 375' long (exit buoy to entrance buoy) and about 60' to 80' wide (sometimes as much as 100' ie. Woodland, Marysville etc.). If we were to attempt to set up a scale San Diego or Tri-Cities 2 1/2 mile course, it would be huge, around 600' long and 150' wide. The only full-size course we come close to duplicating is the Miami 1 2/3 mile. Roger and I pondered a 1/6th scale 3 mile course, and realized we'd need a 20 foot tall scaffolding to see our boats on the 1000' x 200' course! Now, all this doesn't mean I'm proposing larger courses, I happen to like the small tracks with the close quartered racing. Odd, though, that we race models over twice scale speeds on 1/2 scale courses. No wonder our heats often last less than a minute. Just thought you might find the prospective interesting.

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