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Tips for Predicting the Wind on Race Day

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Weather forecasting is a vast subject capable of much confusion, even to those with degrees in Meteorology. However, a little knowledge can give you quite an edge on the race course. Predicting and reacting to short-term wind shifts is critical to success for short-course sailors. This is easier when you have a little knowledge about the causes and signs of short-term wind shifts. The goal of this course is to give you tools to predict some common short-term wind shifts when strategizing at the dock and on the racecourse.

- Introduction
- Clouds - “Situational Awareness of the Sky”
 - Importance of clouds
 - Cloud classification and meaning
 - Short-term weather prediction using only clouds
- Cloud effects on the wind
 - Winds around a cumulus cloud
 - Sucking clouds
 - Blowing clouds
 - Organized clouds
 - Cloud Lines - Convergence and divergence
- Local effects
 - Wind climatology
 - Typical Weather Map Patterns
 - Sea breezes
- Preparing for the days weather in 10 minutes
 - “The Forecast Funnel”
 - Weather Observations
 - Models
 - “The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly”
 - Models as guidance
 - Online Resources