

"Bull Session"

News and comments for the El Toro Class

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Cork Screw '07 with a difference.

I have never gathered at a round table with eight skippers of racing sail boats on the sun deck of a yacht club with two pitchers of beer and talked about a race course incident that could have escalated into an ugly, yelling and screaming protest committee, "in the room", scene. A very interesting, non-aggressive, soft-spoken discussion of a potential racing infraction was carefully discussed. After a while all the different ideas and rule interpretations were on the table. A rule book was not introduced into the airing of ideas that could have clouded the different ideas. After some time and another pitcher of beer, all 9 sailors had heard and said enough. Shortly, a good, mutually agreeable, negotiated decision was made and the trophies for first, second, third and a trophy for the sailor for whom this was this first Cork Screw race was ceremoniously slid across the table and presented to their rightful recipients.

I'm proud of being part of this "high class" El Toro group that can race sail boats competitively with a joy of good close racing, a true feeling of staying out of trouble and a knowledge of how the rules work.

Oh, yes there was a great race because the weather was ideal for El Toros. Warm sun, flat water, interesting course, moderate wind shifts and winds in the 6 to 10 knot range.

John Palcholski was able to get away from Gordie on the last run to the finish line after a long 2 1/2 half hour battle up wind and down with the two boats trading the lead four times.

Dennis Silva and Chris Straub had another two boat match race with Chris mostly ahead until the last corner and run to the finish.

Fred Paxton, Skip Shapiro and Art Lang had a three boat sea-saw race for fifth until the last big bend of the slew where Fred pulled out a small lead that he held to the finish line.

Malcolm, the trophy builder extraordinaire, finished 8th and first time Cork Screw Slew El Toro sailor Mark finished his first sailing marathon.

There was a short discussion about the '09 Nationals that may be held on Lake Tahoe and everyone went on their merry ways.



KYC BULL SHIP 2007
Mac McMorrow El Toro Fleet Teller of Tales

Sunday, 16 September, saw the Kaneohe Yacht Club's 57th annual sailing of the Bull Ship. On that day more than 60 sailors left the club bulkhead and sailed into Kaneohe Bay to challenge the golden goddess the sea. It is history now but people will long remember the thrilling events of that day. How KYC Youth Sailing Coach Jesse Andrews again proved to be the fastest man alive as he sailed to victory in his hand-crafted El Toro woody. How many noted the paradox of a classic wooden craft carved by the Belgian woodworker Fred Berg and how it succeeded against the most advanced fiberglass boats known, many built by the award winning Lim Boat Works. Close behind Jesse was Allen Sterling of the heralded family, The Flying Sterlings. Earlier in the day Allen had swept the Junior Division when the youth of this great nation sailed and proved that they too are made from the stuff of champions.

At the afternoon awards ceremony the mariachis played while the Corona, Margaritas and Shirley Temples flowed like buttermilk to fill our hearts with joy. Along with the age and weight division leaders there were categories which recognized special achievements. The hotly contested Tail End Charlie went to junior Lance Miller and seniors Cat, Fritz and Maile of Team Fitzpatrick. Had there been a Mixed Species Division it would have been won also by Team Fitzpatrick as Maile is a brave poi dog who knows never to turn her back on the sea. The team also took senior runner-up in the Double Handed Division when the judges agreed that no rule had been broken by having eight feet in the boat. Harold and Lars von Skydow took Seniors Double Handed while the gifted Denzers won the Junior Division. Half Fast awards to the middle of the herd finishers went to Seamus Murphy and Jordan Kaneshige although both sailors claimed they were in the upper half of their divisions.

Justice would not be served without recounting the adventures of Rear Commodore Don Brown, KYC's Sinbad the Sailor, as he sailed his way into the folklore that is Bull Ship.

Commodore Brown had picked up the gauntlet which had been cast on the deck of the KYC bar by the men and women of the Round Table. His gender being insulted he swore to demonstrate his manhood by setting the standard of excellence in Bull Ship 07. As the Bullhorn sounded "La Cucaracha" Don sailed from the bulkhead. At the same time the love of his life, Ruthann paced the upper deck of the Longhouse fearing she might never see her man again. Today it is still argued just what happened to Don. Some say he sailed hard, sailed fair but sailed slow. Others say he was attacked by demons of the sea who cast water balloons at him. What is known is that when all the boats were in, Don was not with them. Ruthann, realizing that Don had not yet completed the paperwork to include her in his survivor's benefit plan, ran to her kayak and headed out to sea. Again it is not clear exactly what happen next. We know that she rescued Don but in the drama of that rescue she herself capsized and consequently qualified for Senior with the most hulis. (Huli is Hawaiian for "turned over".) (Huli huli would mean turned

