

"Bull Session"

News and comments for the El Toro Class

August, 2008 #246

www.eltoroyra

Elkhorn Yacht Club will be holding their first El Toro Race this Saturday August 16th. **"The Running of the Bulls"** Most of the information is on the El Toro Web Site. I do not know more than that other than this could be a great place to sail an El Toro. The course could be in the Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing Harbor or in the Monterey Bay. Should be interesting!

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Huntington Lake El Toro North American Championship Series

First day of racing saw most of the sailors trying out their race strategy. Everyone knew this week was going to be a long one. Racing started at 12:30 with the second race 30 minutes after the last boat finished. The fleet kept to a tight bunch so lunch break was short. No problem here. The wind turned out to be typical for Huntington Lake and was similar for the complete series.

TILL TOMORROW: Greg 11770

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Second day was wonderful sailing. Mid 70's-80's Wind 8-12 MPH or so. Steady with plenty of shifts to make it interesting. Down wind brings the boats at the starting line or committee boat starboard end for a windward almost perfect course. A pretty good chop with the wind waves and boaters.

12 ET's racing. Gordie Nash seems unstoppable in these conditions with 4 bullets. Art Lange found the right groove today and redeemed himself. Paul Tara and George Morris were over early in the #3 (first race of second day). Paul made a unbelievable recovery to finish 6th.

Two basic courses #Windward leeward. and #2 windward mark, to a very broad just off to downwind starboard reaching mark, (just enough off of straight downwind to aid in preventing death rolls for the fleet). to the leeward mark. and a combinations of these two. Refer to attachment for finishes.

I took a gazillion photos, but must go swimming now so I will go through them send a few to Kelli for the <ELTOROYRA.ORG>. I am electronically challenged and don't know how to zip and AOL has a heart attack if a message is too big.

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Day 4 Drama:

Due to a tragedy that had occurred earlier in the week on the lake, the Fresno and Merced Sheriff were diving the bottom of the lake in the middle of what had been the race course (WEAR YOUR PFD!). The Greg/PRO, Gordie, and Patrick moved all the marks and course up the lake, avoiding the two sheriff boats and divers. While doing this, PRO went to the aid of a capsized dinghy. Two obvious novices that turtled their 21' dinghy. One sailor that would have made the Brahma division several times over, was cold, tired, in obvious distress, and NOT wearing a PFD. He could not get back in his boat that Gordie, Greg, and Patrick had righted. Without a PFD it is a fair statement that the Sheriff could easily have had a second diving location. WEAR YOUR PFD! With the aid of the swim step on Mary's Jewels, we were able to get an exhausted, extremely obese novice out of the water and back to the dock. We were now again ready to again attempt to start race #7

HOWEVER, The now on duty and zealous sheriff came to the PRO (Mary's Jewels) and was ready to board her for safety. Fortunately a little cop talk with Greg and the Sheriff Sergeant, avoided being boarded and another long delay.

AND the new location for the starting line was less rocky on the bottom with difficulty setting anchor. FINALLY we were set and only has about a 20 min postponement to start the 7th race.

A two lap triangle first race was Day 4 again had winds in a steady 8-10 MPH with gusts to 15 was uneventful and our R/C safety boat with Mary and Patrick Tara were able to enjoy the race as well.

Race #8 began after a 30 min break with continued drama. Gordie did not need to race after having won the first race (AGAIN!) and stayed on shore. All seemed well as there were 9 boats all up on the line. Curtis Williamson was just over and called back by the R/C. Several thought they were over and came back as well coming back to restart also without need. Most of the fleet was able clear and started up the lake just as the wind Gods decided to join into the drama. A huge Zephyr (there had been several throughout the series of days) descended down the lake and on the starting line. John I and Art got tangled up with John's and Art's masts dueling. Art was tipped over at the start line. A 720 by John cleared the foul and Mary and Patrick aiding Art to safety. Most of the fleet was on a dead run away from the starting line, leaving Art and John L drifting. The wind filled back in behind the Zephyr and away the fleet roared in the 10-12 MPH wind with gusts to 18 again.

The race ended with Buzz Blackett finishing first. The PRO finished the score sheets while on the water and returned to the fleet at the boat launch area for awards to find that our Fleet President had bought us all ice cream! What a guy!

And surprise surprise the winner is.....drum roll..... Gordie Nash! Gordie also was #1 in the Brahma Division. Our most revered and stalwart competitor, Pete Blasberg finished First in the Masters Division (one race per day)

A very tired and weary group all knew that they had a full week of sailing. While I write this I am a truly grateful to all of the competitors as each and everyone gave me a heartfelt thank you for a well run regatta and race courses. Each day the fleet was able to see as slightly different view of the course.

We are all grateful to PAUL TARA and the Santa Cruz Yacht club for hosting the regatta and providing the safety whaler. Thank you to SVENSONS and CHRIS STRAUB for trophy materials. Thank you to WEST MARINE for the 4' inflatable marks. Thank you to BUZZ BLACKETT for TROPHIES.

I thank Paul and Mary and Patrick Tara for the gift of allowing me to be the PRO as I truly had a wonderful week with the fleet! I am appreciative of the gift shirt and "LIFE IS GOOD"! I believe all that could attend the regatta would agree that "life is good, life is very good, and sailing makes it better".

Pictures of the regatta, awards, and miscellaneous. to follow when I get Kelli a CD with the photos on the web site.

Attached file with results.

Please Please, if you have not paid your ET dues please send Steve a check or go online and aid the fleet.

Respectfully yours
your Corinthian sailor
Greg Morrill ET 11770

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right coast:

Bill Fry has put together the flier for this year's Plantation Regatta to be held Saturday August 16th near St Mary's City.

Be there in time to get your toros ready before the skippers meeting at 11am. (At least by 10am)

And be sure to let Bill know if you're coming so we can be sure we have enough sailors and also so he can make preparations.

Full information is on the website and the attached flier

I'm continually impressed with the El Toro Web Site and all the work that must go into such a great presentation.

Kelli Cook is doing a marvelous job. If you have not seen the site lately, it is well worth a look!

eltoroyra.org

2008 Schedule

August 16 Elkhorn YC

August 23-24, Pinecrest Worlds

September 20-21, Total Dinghy, RYC

October 5, El Toro Stampede, RYC

October 18, Corkscrew Slew, Sequoia YC

December 7, RYC Midwinter #1

December 13, LMSC Midwinter #1