



missed had 20 boats sailing the daily race and almost that many the whole month before..darn... next year will move up the Worlds to get more of the local fleet action. Still had 10 boats for the Tuesday race, and a really nice local boat capsized right before the start and that delay gave me time to rig up and make the start! No practice just sail 100 feet out into the lake and try to hear Gil counting down and then go.

This years event marks Gil Giluly "slowly backing out" of running entire event.. But at 11:30 Saturday morning he was there to run the opening ceremonies and explain the many traditions of the "Worlds". With the majority of the locals already packed up and gone the fleet was down to only five of the "SOB" fleet (by the way that stands for sit on the beach) and eight boats from the bay area. Our small fleet did not lack for talent with five of the fleet fresh from sailing the NA's at Huntington, plus John Pacholski who has been 2nd the last two times he sailed in the worlds and Art Lange who was our 2004 National Champion at Pinecrest. Art as last years worlds winner got to pick the first course, which is one more of the traditions of the worlds is that the winner of each race picks the next course. We modified the starting technique, since Gil said he could no longer count down from 30 and be heard over luffing sails of the fleet. The winner of each race started the next by blowing a whistle at one minute and every 10 seconds till the last 10 and then the whole fleet counted down out-loud done to go.

Art won the first race, sailing course "Zag Zag with an extra cross tossed in to give a beat to the finish line. Local sailor Jay Copeland pulled a great move going in and out of tower and almost got the lead from the Art and John P. match race in the front of the fleet. Jay finished that race a close third right behind John. First race also featured a ferocious battle between Hank Easom, Dennis Silva, and our youngest sailor Mike Pacholski who prevailed in a three way tacking duel at the end.

Second race of the day was an arduous choice by race winner Art, Monarch which features a long run down the lake after rounding beach. Several of the local fleet aced the start and first beat lead by George Morris, Curtis Willemessesn, and Gary Winton, only to be given a "play the shifts downwind" lesson by John P. and Art who lead at the bottom mark and proceeded once again to match race for the lead the rest of the race. The third place boat can attest they made no mistakes that could be taken advantage of, and still hold off Hank Easom and George who were both in third more than once. John Pacholski prevailed and won the race.

Another of the traditions maintained is potluck dinner about an hour after we have recovered after the last race. A very nice way to end the day, with hot dogs, chips, Gil's watermelon, Art's "humus", John's pasta salad, Jay's turkey wrap, Curtis's wife great chicken salad, and Mike P's somores. This sailor had no trouble going to sleep Saturday evening!

Sunday's first race was at noon and Pinecrest came through with a nice breeze to encourage us to get started. John P. picked one of my favorite courses, Senility with an extra "beach", a nice tour of the entire lake almost twice. John did a much better job of starting race, as one the skills we missed was Gil's ability to look up the lake and start the race just as a good breeze would reach the line for the first beat. The entire fleet counted down from 10 out loud, and off we went. John and Art stayed with each other and let the rest of us have a chance. Gary Winton, George and Hank were all in the front of the fleet, and John and Art reached high on the long run down to cove above the rest of us... this time though it paid to stay in the middle and at least 6 boats were very close at cove. Once again the middle paid on beat to Tower, as boats that went to high faded and the boats that footed low ran into softer breeze. Art, Dennis, and Hank had a nice duel (at least from my perspective) on run to Stump with some awful fancy maneuvers for a Pinecrest race at the mark. Finally at the end of the last beat John realized all he had to do was finish second and he was the overall winner (thank goodness!). All the sailors finished with smiles no matter the position in that race as it was a beautiful day and nice way to say good bye to a great lake for 2008.

This year featured professionally done trophies by Bob Hrubes wife Lynn, (thank you Lynn!) Pictures coming soon.. Great display on the podium (tree stump) for first five places. Our youngest sailor Mike Pacholski at his first regatta racing against just us old sailors came in 5th, Greg Morris was 4th, I was happy to get a third this year, Art Lange was second, and Mike's dad John Pacholski is our 2008 El Toro "World" champion.

Kindest regards, third place and happy... Fred

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More Elkhorn,,,

Saturday, the Elkhorn YC sponsored the Running of the Bulls. They resurrected an event from long ago. Nearly 20 El Toros showed up. The fleet included a mix of EYC members, juniors from the Santa Cruz program, and the HP Sailing Club.

After the sunny summer weather, the coastal fog was a bit of a surprise. The original plan was to race close to the YC harbor, because of the large number of boats, the racing was held in Elkhorn Slough. There was a minor technical problem: the bridge for highway 1 has about 10 ft clearance at maximum low tide. The solution was to tow the El Toros with the masts down under the bridge to a sandy beach.

While the fleet was assembling, we were treated to close up views of Pelicans, seals and otters. Meanwhile Art Lange was scoping out the details of the local wind and current. In the first race, he almost immediately had a 100 ft lead over the rest of the fleet. In the following two races, the competition got closer, but Art

finished the series with 3 bullets. #2 was Greg Morrill who basically came for relaxation after a stressful week separating the knuckleheads from the good citizens of San Jose. JohnPacholski was #3.

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**The El Toro Web Site is well worth looking at! There is a lot of work that goes into such a great presentation. It will be worth your time. Kelli Cook is doing a marvelous job.**

**eltoroyra.org**

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## 2008 Schedule

September 6, Leukemia Cup Regatta

September 14, Lake Washington, Sacramento.

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