

"Bull Session"

News and comments for the El Toro Class

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This Saturday, the last summer series race, **Redwood City Cork Screw Slew Race** October 18th. Meet at the launching ramp on the West side of the Redwood City Chanel. Race will start about 12 noon, skippers meeting will be about 10:30 to 11:AM Show-up, register, race this challenging long distance El Toro marathon.

2008 El Toro Stampede Richmond Yacht Club 59th Annual

The 2008 edition of the Richmond Yacht Club El Toro Stampede was sailed under sunny skies and in ideal El Toro breezes. Twenty three skippers, representing all age groups from 8 to 65 years young sailed the two Stampede races. One starting line for all age groups. The course was a triangle/windward leeward for each of the Stampede races, with all sailors completing the course within 30 minutes. Three old silver perpetual trophies honor the age divisions. The George Dornin is for those 15 and under, Archie Beckett for those 16 to 20, and the Helen Dornin is for those 21 and older.

The Bull Throwers Sweepstakes is a weight division ladder event, with fly, medium, heavy and Brahma Bull divisions racing separately until the final race of the top two in each division fighting it out for "El Sacko de Manure" prize. This race finishes in the harbor off "A" dock.

The Green Bottle (Tanquray) and Soda Social race was a 2 legged windward/leeward within the harbor where the competitors have to sail downwind leg backwards. Mackenzie Cook confessed that he has been practicing the backwards sailing at Pinto Lake in the Santa Cruz YC junior program. And it showed. Skip Shapiro had great success going backwards as well. The race committee and crash boats set perfect courses and ran professional level races.

Thank you, also to the Kelli and Dan Cook for bringing their whaler and doing mark setting and crash boat duty for the fleet. A big thanks to Gordie Nash for letting the race committee use his powerboat "Arena". Gordie and Ruth were racing their Santana 27' in the last double handed race of the season. It is too early to declare them the winner but it appears as though they will win the 2008 Season Championship for Double Handed sailing on San Francisco Bay.

This year's event is the 59th annual Stampede. That's right, it has been going on since 1949, and is the longest continuous regatta at Richmond Yacht Club.

****There are some awesome names on the trophies, for example: Brian McCarthy, John Kosteki, Paul Cayard, Henry Jotz, Jim Warfield,,,

A full report of each race winner next issue.

