

"Bull Session"

News and comments for the El Toro Class

May 2009 #293

www.eltoroyra.org

2009 Flight of the Bulls is this Saturday, May 9th

This will be the 38th annual Bob McKibben memorial
(Annually held the day before Mother's day)

Boat Park Foster City CA. Foster City Blvd/ One Bounty Dr., Foster City, CA, 94404

Location is the intersection of Bounty Dr at Foster City Blvd.

Show-up and register

Skippers meeting **10:30**

Start **11:00 am sharp**

The race will be held RAIN OR SHINE. Only electrical storms, major thunder storms, and sustained winds over 20 MPH at the start of the race are the only reasons to cancel the race. Trophies, tee shirts, and lunch at the completion of the race for all competitors.

Again we have excellent news regarding this year's Foster City Flight of the Bulls. Our very own, most high and auspicious. Admiral JOHN FRASER will again grace us with RUBY to be our shepherd and safety boat this year. We are truly humbled to be in the presence of his royalty! Forecast is wind.....lots of it

THE QUESTION IS, Are you ready for the challenge? The Flight of the Bulls is the third race in the Senior El Toro Series and is easily the most demanding and challenging of the entire Sr. Series. Sr's will be scored separately for the '09 series, however, this is an OPEN division race for El Toro's and advances Jr's are encouraged to sail along with the Sr's. Jr's and Sr's will be scored as finished as one fleet for trophies.

HOWEVER, this is NOT A BEGINNERS RACE! To successfully finish this race, you must be capable of repeated short tacking in light AND heavy wind, possess the ability to read a variety of wind current signs, be capable of quickly reacting to rapidly changing wind conditions, and have the stamina for a long race.

The race is for class legal El Toro's only,,,All El Toro's must conform to class rules,,,A dedicated attached 15' painter is required,,,The mast must be secured to the hull with means other than running rigging,,,PFD's are required while on the water,,,720 for rule infractions,,,360 for marks

There is no formal charge for the race

However, donations from \$10 to \$20 is appreciated to defray costs

Race costs

\$50 for annual Foster City application,,, \$50 for insurance rider per Foster City regulations
(provided by the El Toro Class Association, thanks Steve for your assistance)

Safety boat costs,,, Tee Shirts,,, Food,,, Trophy materials

THE FLIGHT OF THE BULLS AND “NORMAL” SAILING CONDITIONS

The history of the race has repeatedly presented challenging conditions ranging from slight drifting air to sudden blasting gusts of wind coming from between buildings, all during the same race. Temperatures ranged from blazing hot and dehydration to rain and high winds. Some race days have drifted for a majority of the race to finish in a gale, while some started in a stiff breeze with wind building stronger as the race progressed.

The only constant has been the challenge of sailing under 4 different bridges with swirling zephyrs of wind coming at 360 degree shifts around the columns and from directly above. There is an open water lagoon that may have major wind shifts. There are channels that mandate precise multiple short tacking and concentration on choosing the right wind shifts. There are long runs directly down wind in funnels of wind. There are patches of dead calm with zephyrs of air swirling behind tall condos, buildings, and trees. Wind can be directly down, zephyrs floating through, to sudden shifts around the ends of the buildings. There are buildings on both sides of channels that can stop the wind completely, direct the air up, or funnel air currents directly between them.

Add to this, that the length of the race normally exceeds 2 hours in length making a skipper continue to concentrate for the entire race as they become fatigued. From the front to back of the fleet there are ample opportunities to pass and to be passed due to favorable wind and careful tactical opportunities. Positions have been gained and lost in the last portions of the race. Many times the winner was decided by less than a boat length with multiple changes in the lead throughout the race as due to the complexity of the conditions.

The BULLSHIP can be sailed with knowledge of sea currents, tides, and general sailing skills. The Corkscrew requires sailing in currents, general sailing skill but has minimal opportunity to pass. This race taxes your knowledge of wind currents, overall sailing ability, and stamina. You do not need to be Superman,,but it would help! Do not let this scare you off,,it is a race that many El Toros have finished!

Pinto Lake -- Mussels 1 -- El Toros 0

I made the decision to cancel the regatta at Pinto solely on the fact that not just one, but several, boats failed mussel inspections. The weather conditions were not a factor other than how they impacted the inspections. If there had been no mussel issue we would have sailed, rain or no rain. This was a class sponsored season championship regatta and in my opinion there should have been only two considerations: the amount of wind and competitor safety. But since boats in both Jr. and Sr. fleets failed, it did not seem fair for the regatta to be included in the season championship series. Therefore I decided it would be 'rain for no real gain' to continue to hold the regatta.

But now, we all know what to expect. Next year, if anyone shows up with a wet boat they'll be really, really sorry. Because, we will hold the race and the scores will count. And, I'm buying some of Butch's cling wrap just in case, for Clear Lake!

Paul Tara

Clear Lake,,June 12-13-14

"Jerry" at Lakeshore Bait and Tackle (just down the street from LINGER LONGER) is open from 7-5 daily. The dreaded Quagga Mussel inspection is the same as last year.

Pay the \$10 per boat, have your PDF application filled out, and if you have not been in an infected location, they DO NOT need to even look at your boat and you get your two (2) stickers (one of each side of the front sides of the boat).

If you have been in an infected waterway (and we don't sail in any of these YET) or have ballast tanks or have bait/fish tanks, they look at the boat. If the boat is clean, drained, and dry, you pass.

I could go on with the rest of the rules, but there is no need as we #1 CLEAN, DRAIN, AND DRY our boats and don't sail in infected waters yet.

Greg

Fremont Relays, Fremont Lake Elisabeth, May 17th

Now that you all have survived the 2009 Bull Ship and the Flight of the Bulls, it is time to get your sailing partner and join the Fremont Sailing Club for its 6th annual **Fremont Relays** to be held on Sunday May 17th at Lake Elizabeth in Fremont. This is one week after Mothers Day and just 8 days after Greg's **Flight of the Bulls**.

This is the only El Toro race of its kind where two skippers sail in a relay race with one Toro. Each skipper will sail two legs of the course.

Vern Tucker

The entry, NOR and SI' are almost ready for us from the Lake Tahoe Yacht Club for the National Championship Series. Be ready to sigh-up shortly, August 2-3-4-5-6, 2009

2009 Calendar

Flight of the Bulls, this Saturday May 9, Foster City Lagoon

Fremont Relays	May 17	Fremont			
Fremont	May 31	Spring 789			
Clear Lake	June 13-14	LINGER LONGER RESORT	707-994-6427		
Fremont	June 21	Summer 234			
Fremont	June 28	Summer 456	Total-Dinghy	Sept 19-20	RYC
Lake Merritt	July 5	Oakland	Moss Landing		
Fremont	July 26	Summer 789	Stampede	October 4	RYC
Nationals	August 3---6	Lake Tahoe	Cork Screw	October 17	Redwood City
Worlds	August 15-16	Pinecrest	RYC Midwinter's	Dec 6	RYC First of '09
Fremont	August 23	Fall 123			
Fremont	September 13	Fall 456			
Fremont	September 27	Fall 789			