

# Bull Session

News and comment for the El Toro Class

November #350

[www.eltoroyra.org](http://www.eltoroyra.org)

[norcalsailing.com](http://norcalsailing.com)

race report

## Running of the Bulls

November 14, 2010

Northern California is a big, beautiful place, and not all the sailboat racing is on San Francisco Bay. Especially if you've got a boat that'll fit in the back of a pickup truck, you can hit the road and within a couple of hours find whole new scenery to race in.

The [El Toro fleet](#) is among those who like to travel, to Lake Tahoe, Clear Lake, and Pinecrest, for example. But the Bay Area El Toro seniors missed a good one on Saturday, leaving all the glory to a cadre of [Santa Cruz Yacht Club](#) juniors.

The Santa Cruzers only had to cruise down Highway 1 for half an hour to reach their neighbor on Monterey Bay, Moss Landing. Hosted by [Elkhorn Yacht Club](#), the Running of the Bulls was held on Elkhorn Slough.

The sailboats (13 El Toros and one DeWitt Dinghy) had to be towed with their masts down under the Highway 1 bridge to get to the race area. They rigged on a handy beach, and the race committee set up marks for windward-leeward racing.

Three races were run on a stretch of water populated by pelicans, otters and kayakers. The weather couldn't have been nicer, the water on the Slough is flat, and wetsuits were not worn.

The second race was the windiest, with puffs coming through from Monterey Bay, just a few hundred yards directly to the west, and the wind started to die for the third. During the third race, some stragglers got caught in a wind hole and had to be towed back to the start line to restart.

The well-trained, well-equipped intermediate to advanced level SCYC teenagers were joined by younger Elkhorn YC beginning juniors and local adult sailors. The first place finisher among the senior fleet, James Savittore of Aptos is the only one who races regularly with the Bay Area El Toro fleet, and has sailed in the [Bullship](#). Second place finisher Rainer Stegeman, who lives aboard a Cal 30 in Santa Cruz Harbor, said that he is not regularly a racer.

A live aboard from Moss Landing, 10-year old Logan Gregg was the top Elkhorn YC junior. He's not interested in sailing with his parents, but he's been bitten by the racing bug and loves competing.

The SCYC juniors were topped by Nicholas Lenz, second place was Mara Eckert, third was Michael Levy, and fourth was intermediate sailor Charlotte Lenz. The four teenagers enjoyed tight competition. None of them had sailed in the Running of the Bulls before.

As soon as the race committee had the boats squared away, Commodore Mark Pastick dashed over to fire up the barbecue before he'd even taken off his PFD, and the sailors and their families enjoyed a fabulous sunset and excellent barbecued burgers.

This was only the third annual Running of the Bulls; maybe the Bay Area El Toro fleet will discover it next year. We couldn't help taking a lot of pretty pictures, so we'll post a [photo gallery](#) tomorrow.

There are 9 pictures that go with is story and many more on the web site!

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This is years' end,,time for the "El toro Tally". These are El Toro sailors who have won races in other classes and divisions,,

John Liebenberg has won two YRA divisions,,Ocean Series and the Season Championship,,

David Liebenberg and Max Frasier finished the 29er World Championship Series in 5th place

David is on the Tufts University sailing team

Julia Paxton is part of New York Maritime College

Greg Paxton and Julia finished 2nd in Pacific Cup

Will Paxton won the Vallejo 1-2 weekend races of the Single Handed Sailing Society

and the Express 27' Nationals

Clair Dennis is on the Yale Sailing team

Chris and Nick Nash won their division in the 3 Bridge Fiasco

Michael Quinn won his division in the Big Daddy Weekend

Vaughn Seifers won the Moore 24' Pacific Coast Championship

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2010 regattas left to sail:

Richmond Mid-Winters December 5

Lake Merritt Mid-Winters December 11

2011 Schedule,,,so far,,,these are confirmed dates,,,

January 2, Richmond Mid-Winters #2  
January 9, Lake Merritt Mid-Winters #2  
February 6, Richmond Mid-Winters #3  
February 12, Lake Merritt Mid-Winters #3  
March 6, Richmond Mid-Winters #4  
March 13, Lake Merritt Mid-Winters #4  
April 16-17, Big Dinghy, RYC  
April 30, Bull Ship, Sausalito to SF  
May 7, Flight of the Bulls, Foster City  
May 15, Fremont Relays  
June 18-19, Clear Lake Regional Championship  
tbs , Lake Merritt Mayors Cup  
August 12-13-14, National Championship, Santa Cruz  
August 6-7, Pincrest Worlds  
September 17-18, Total Dinghy RYC  
October 2, Stampede, RYC  
October 15, Cork Screw, Redwood City  
November tbd, Running of the Bulls, Moss Landing