

Bull Session

news and comment of the El Toro Class
September 2013 #493

The El Toro Class rules specify that no electronics are allowed. A stop watch is allowed for timing the start. This also keeps electronic compasses off the boat while racing. No GPS, wind instruments, computers or hydraulic pilot drives. Sailing information is collected, interpreted and acted on with the brain of the sailors. An El Toro is a 'pure and simple' sailors' sail boat.

But the 'Country of New Zealand' will wish they had this rule in effect on America's Cup catamarans being races in San Francisco Bay. Because the Oracle Computers are now in control of Larry's racing catamaran. At the beginning of the series the sailors where in control of the boats. The New Zealand sailors where dominantly in control of the match races. This until the Oracle computers collected enough information to be able to control the big foiling/flying 72' catamaran. Now the computer has replaced the Oracle sailors' brains. The crew simply grinds hydraulic power so the foils, sails and rudders can be controlled by the computer.

Unless the San Francisco Bay weather does not turn into "sailors conditions" the 44th rated nation, New Zealand, will not be able to stop the computing power of Oracle.

The El Toro Class will continue with their "no electronics" rule.

The RYC El Toro Stampede. Sunday October 6.

Registration 9:30 am, Skippers meeting 10 am, first race 11 am. The usual 2 Stampede races, weight division races, Green Bottle/Soda 6-pac race at the end. If FATS is home it will be the committee boat. This is the oldest continuously run regatta of the Richmond Yacht Club. The perpetual trophy dates back to 1947.

2013 calendar

El Toro Stampede	October 6	Richmond YC
Cork Screw	October 19	Redwood City

El Toro 'Senior' National Championship Series locations

2014 Clear Lake, Saturday June 14th, Sunday 15th & Monday 16th

2015 Santa Cruz

2016 Pinecrest

2017 ?

Fremont Sailing Club sailing schedule:

Sep 8 – Fall

Sep 22 – Fall