

# Bull Session

*news and comment of the El Toro Class*

*September, 2015 #555*

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

## A history story

Ten years ago, Gail Yando and I figured out how to have a very large fleet of all-kinds of dinghy's race, **successfully**, in the small water space of the Potrero Reach. For a few years Richmond Yacht Club had over 80 dinghy's racing on the inside course, without congestion, and without racing boats sitting and waiting for long periods of time, to get a start during the spring "**Big Dinghy**" and fall "**Totally Dinghy**" Regattas. This two-line original system worked very well. Over the years, for what ever reason, it was no longer used. As the racing decreased in quality the fleets decreased in size.

I did my "help-part", the "**volunteering**" part with the original ideas, working with the club/committee and I providing and anchoring my powerboat as the start boat. I also talked the El Toro fleet into coming and participating. If you look at the numbers, the El Toro Class was one of the largest "Classes".

My job, as leader, is not to complain, but it is my job to advocate for the health of the "El Toro Class" and as a member, the Richmond Yacht Club. After 1/2 of a decade of poor El Toro racing during these two regattas and many meetings, where I softly and carefully voiced my ideas to improve the event, frustration had me "shot-off-my-mouth" with complaints, during a RYC committee meeting, about and why these two regattas have lost the support of the El Toro Class to 'count' these events for the season championship. In the fall of 2014 the El Toro's decided not to 'count' or even attend these two regattas for 2015. The class did, after some changes and behind the scenes work, attend and race the April 11th, "Big Dinghy Regatta". This experience, **again** solidified that the 'class' should **not** 'count' the September "Totally Dinghy" regatta.

My action falls into the category of, in a volunteer club, that "If you complain,,you have volunteered to do it" ,,and, "do it the way you want!". I already did my volunteering part.

Please, this is my club and the El Toro, as a "Class", started from the Richmond Yacht Club. The RYC's longest and oldest continuously-held regatta is the El Toro Stampede started in the late 1940's, October 11th this year. Also, remember that the RYC Winter-Series is very well run and the fleet of El Toros is very large!

Remember, in the fall of 2014 the class decided **not** to 'count' these events in the Senior Season scoring.

The RYC committee must have realized my frustration and will be doing a much better job at the September 19th "Totally Dinghy" regatta. It is being planned and will be run by El Toro Sailor Steve Lake. He is an excellent sailor and will do a good job and may even use some of the ideas Gail and I worked out 10 years ago.

The Richmond Yacht Club is holding the annual "Totally Dinghy" regatta on September 19th with other classes in the Potrero Reach Course, (inside). The El Toro Class is an "invited class" and will be given a start if more than 5 boats register. I encourage El Toro Sailors to sail, race, have fun and with the idea of helping Steve with constructive suggestions on how to help RYC re-establish these two events as **Premier Dinghy Events**.

However, because many El Toro sailors already have made other plans for that day, we will be sticking with our original plan of **not** counting September 19th towards the 2015 El Toro season standing.

We, as El Toro Sailors, do look forward in helping to plan, volunteering and/or simply showing-up and racing the 2016 Big and Totally Dinghy Regattas.

The El Toro Class has had a very good year. Clear Lake was well attended with great racing, especially on Saturday, the Santa Cruz Nationals was fabulous with 55 boats and so far our class numbers are up! Two more events to count and then we crown the 2015 Senior season champion. The Juniors will be finishing-up their season with the West Marine Fun Regatta in Santa Cruz.

### **2015 Schedule**

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Fun Regatta SCYC    September for Juniors  
Totally Dinghy RYC    September 19, non-counter  
Stampede RYC        October 11 for Juniors and Seniors  
Cork Screw            October 24

### **National Championship Venues**

2016    Pincrest  
2017    Alameda Sailing Center

2018 Lake Yosemite  
2019 Kaneohe Bay  
2020 Clear Lake

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El Toro stories and video in archives:

There is a great drone video of the El Toro fleet racing on Clear Lake taken by Chris Twirbutt, a professional drone-camera guy. It can be found on the El Toro web site, Norcalsailing.com and the Scuttlebutt web site. It is very worth watching two or three times! Try,,<http://vimeo.com/131362498>,,

,,sailingscuttlebutt.com,,  
,,pressure-drop.us,,  
,,norcalsailing.com,,

CHANGES in life

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CorkScrew , Sequoya Yacht Club's regatta will be October 24th, so it coincides with their year-end barbeque and party, This race is not as "High-Tide" dependent as it has been in the past (not Octob