

Bull Session

news and comment of the El Toro Class

May, 2016 #583

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2016 Flight of the Bulls or "A Day Adrift in a Long Lagoon" by John P.

Clouds filled the sky as twenty-two sailors engaged in the 46th running of the Flight of the Bulls. RC was delighted that a pack of ten eager RYC juniors showed up ready to tackle this typically long, tough race. The juniors stayed eager, but the weather, not so much. The weather system passing through left us with zero to two knots of wind all day, consistent with the crystal ball forecast by Gordie. Not quite enough rain to be really annoying, but the really annoying part was when the wind went to almost zero when the drizzle came down. To the best of my knowledge none of the umpteenth regulars for the Flight of the Bulls had ever experienced a drifter for this race that is often white knuckle sailing. Is it global warming or just a freak late season weather system? You decide.

As to the racing, the battle for the top spot started at the line with Art Lange and Fred Paxton duking out all the way up the first leg. I believe Fred rounded first, but somewhere between the first mark and the start/finish line Art got by and lead for the rest of the race for his 4th straight win! Fred got a hard earned 2nd for the day. Vaughn Seifers and John P. duked it out for 3rd and 4th with Vaughn skillfully pushing his Lim hull to its LIMmits to take a decisive 3rd place. All through the day the seniors kept looking back at the amazing site of a tsunami of Juniors traveling in a tight pack ready to engulf them at the slightest mistake. It was a highly motivating sight. Due to the light conditions our RC boat took mercy on us and Vickie shortened the course to just short of the bridge before the restaurants. Lots of spectators this year along the course. Obviously Foster City residents stay home when it rains and many of them were amused to see twenty-two El Toros passing through their back yards. Noteworthy this year were THREE father/son teams. Wes and Vaughn Seifers / Sam and Nick Nash / Nate and Mike Holden. Competing with your children in El Toro's is the BEST and you can't do that in an Opti!

A full list of the finishing positions will be posted on the ETIYRA site.

Top honors went to the following sailors:

First Place: Art Lange, SCS

Second Place: Fred Paxton, RYC

Third Place: Vaughn Seifers, RYC

First Junior: Connell Phillips, RYC
First Bullette: Haily Boe, RYC

A big thank you to Vickie Gilmore who towed and launched a comittee skiff all the way down from Lake Merit and then drove around in the rain checking on and repositioning marks.

Thanks Vickie! And thanks to Kurt and Kelly Lahr for throwing a great after race party at their home in Foster City. Also thanks to the other members of the FOTB team that made the day possible: Kurt Lahr and Mark Marlett for assisting Vickie on RC; Mark Miller for making an emergency run to West Marine to get a fuel line connector to get gas flowing to RC motor; Diane P. for handling registration and finishes; Fred Paxton for supplying a loud hailer, and starting flag. As mentioned at the trophy presentation, it would be great if we could find a team of El Toro dads that would be willing to bring in powerboats for next year's event. Vickie loves us, but towing RC boat down from Merit is a lot of work. Please contact John P. if you can provide a boat.

Next year's race is scheduled for **Saturday, May 13th, 2017**

(always the Saturday before Mother's Day). Please mark your 2017 calendars now and join us. Hopefully we will return to more energetic wind conditions.

[There was a lot of talk about this event during the Flight of the Bulls. Be ready for a good fleet! This is a fun team/sailing event. Any partnership combination will work.](#)

ANNOUNCING THE 13TH ANNUAL Fremont Relays

For El Toro s
Sunday May 15, 2016

Lake Elizabeth in Fremont, at Paseo Padre and Stevenson Blvds.

10:00 AM Registration
11:00 AM Skippers Meeting
12:00 Noon Start

Racers will consist of two person teams to sail one El Toro boat. Each skipper will alternate sailing two legs of a pre determined course. Boats will be tied to the dock and there will be a Le Mans start.

Entrants will not be limited by age or gender and any combination thereof will be permitted.

The entry fee is **\$25.00 plus a city required launch fee of \$7.00.**

The entry fee includes a BBQ with, hamburgers, chips, drinks etc.

Trophies will be awarded to the first three teams.

T-Shirts will be distributed on a random basis.

Contact person: Vern Tucker (408) 730-2548 or e-mail at vltnvt1@comcast.net.

Submit entries to: Vern Tucker, 1350 Fisher Hawk Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-3451. . **Make checks payable to the Fremont Sailing Club.**

Name: _____, _____

Address: _____

City: _____ CA. Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____, e-mail: _____

Yacht Club: _____ Sail Number: _____

We are now planning the Clear Lake Regatta, we have two crach boats and a Committee Boat. We have invited a small trimaran class to join us. The WETA class is a perfect addition to the great warm sailing on Clear Lake, June 18-19.

2016 Schedule

May 15th for Fremont Relays

May 22 Lake Elizabeth, Fremont, (see El Toro wed site)

June 18-19 Clear Lake

June 26, Mayors Cup, Lake Meritt S C

August 2-4th Pinecrest National Championship Series

August 6-7th Pinecrest Worlds

October 22, Cork Screw, Redwood City

Fremont Sailing Club dates.

May 22

June 12 and 26

July 10 and 24

August 14 and 28

September 18

National Championship Venues

2016 Pinecrest, August 2-3-4

Pinecrest Worlds 6-7

2017 Alameda Sailing Center

2018 Lake Yosemite
2019 Kaneohe Bay
2020 Clear Lake

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 Scuttlebut web site. It is very worth watching two or three times! Try,,,<http://vimeo.com/131362498>,,,