

- **Bull Ship 2013 Is In The Books!**

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A damp, foggy day greeted the 30 something participants in the 60th annual Bullship, with very little wind and much less visibility at the Sausalito start line, which took an hour long powder waiting for more of both. It finally came and the intrepid fleet of 8' foot mostly plywood, hard chined home built craft trodded of into the mystic. RYC's Seymor Dodds was on the scene and files this report for bovine boat fans world wide....snort, snort...



*The Start in Sausalito*

Winner was Gordy Nash he was furthest east and was least impacted by the ebb. When asked why he won Gordy said simply, "I finished ahead of everyone else."

It's more along the lines of boat and tactics  
Boat speed makes you look like tactical genius,  
When you combine boat speed and tactical genius you get Gordy Nash.

The start was delayed by fog and an outbound containership.  
Competitors were running around asking what the compass course was to the Cityfront.

Or whining about not having a compass  
Fortunately after an hour delay the mist cleared slightly, the containership passed out the gate and 24 boat fleet was off  
The hour was crucial- a flood tide race turned into an ebb race.



*Chris Nash tacking for Yellow bluff* all photo © RYC Racing

After a so-so start Gordy lagged behind

He only tacked twice and consistently stayed to the east side of the course.

Gordy left the leaders about midway across by reaching & really favoring the Alcatraz side of the course.

Gordy was reaching off in the puffs and heating it up in the lulls

Tom Alexander on one of the Cowships that accompany the racers was thinking "No way he's gonna recover from that move."

Buzz Blackett also made the move to the east. Buzz ultimately finished second.

(Buzz is the owner skipper of the ocean racer California Condor, an Antrim Class 40)



*Bruce Bradfute third place*

That anticipated ebb came with about a mile to the finish  
Everyone moved right toward the Gate and Gordy was golden.  
The finish line was the same one use by the America's Cup right off the Golden Gate Yacht Club breakwater.  
The Toro is of course little smaller and a lot slower than those AC Catamarans.



*James Savatone first woodie.jpg*



*Bullship Podium Buzz, Gordy and Bruce Bradfute*

Still everyone who does this races comes out with memories.  
You're halfway across, somewhere in between the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz where a boat slightly larger than a bath tub generally doesn't belong.  
And you can't but think what a marvelous day. This is fun.



*Chris Nash reveals his secret weapon*



*Bill Moore Maiden Voyager*

In the fun Department Bill Moore after all these years took a sinker across.  
He even made a special journey up to Oregon to get "Buttercup."  
A sinker is one of those ancient wooden boats without all that extra flotation.  
She was once a hot boat in the San Francisco Yacht Club's junior program which was preserved as a family heirloom.  
Once you go over you're gone -no possibility of self rescue. Yes his wife was a little apprehensive.  
He made a decent passage and although he might have been the oldest competitor was never the less presented with the 1st maiden voyage award.



*CindeLou Tail End Charile*

Yet another maiden voyager who once raced Buttercup as a Junior was CindeLou Delmas. Her own rooting section watched and cheered from the dock. She had fun in not winning. In fact was DFL & garnered that ignominious bulls tale trophy. This trophy is so well received by competitors that it keeps disappearing and this year was no different.

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