

Pinecrest 2015 Worlds report..

No one went home disappointed with the sailing this year.. We had 19 boats registered from all over the Bay Area, some sailing at the lake for the first time and a bunch of us coming back to rediscover what a great Toro lake Pinecrest still is.

Jim Haire once again had done all the hard work getting the Forest Service Permits, and we used the marks he and Jay Copeland and Gary Winton had set out the beginning of the season. Joyce Andrews did a great job setting up the registration and of course getting all the finishes for each race. Lynn Duncan did a magnificent job on the trophies this year, including one for the top SOBYC sailor, top women skipper and top junior sailor all custom made and way over the top outlandish.

This event is all about tradition, and winner of last year's worlds picks the course for the first race and has to do a verbal countdown for the start (just try a figure out where to start, do a bit of maneuvering and do a slow count from 30 down).. Each course rounds all the marks on the lake (7) and all the marks have names and all the courses have names, no dull numbers at Pinecrest.

The fast boat/skipper this year was Art Lange, he led at the first mark until the finish.. Meanwhile the rest of us got to have a great race for second with Vaughn Seifers, Will Paxton, Gary Winton, Walt Andrews, and myself all changing places seemed like each leg of the course.. Top three finishers in that race were Art, Will, and Vaughn, with rest of us close behind making hard work for Joyce to get all the sail numbers.

Second race of the day was Art's choice and he picked "Monarch" which is the second most difficult course on the lake. I have decided that it is the curse of the counter for naming and counting down the start.. Art had a terrible start and was way back but darn.. by the second mark he was back in the front all the way around the course until sailing down from Tower he was "PINECRESTED" the 100 yard lead dissolved to 3rd place.. A big group of us sailed up to and past Art's personal parking spot.. I managed to be first to last mark before the finish, and two tacks later think I was at least 8th.. Gordie, Walt, Art, Tom Burden, Vaughn, and Gary all got past me at one tack or another.. Never give up at Pinecrest, and a couple of really lucky shifts let me just barely get ahead of Vaughn at the finish.. That race ended up Fred, Vaughn, Art, and Walt at the top..

Two races a day is another nice tradition and leaves a little energy left for a potluck with all the sailors and their supporters. Each race is reviewed and laughed at.. all with the backdrop of the lake and mountains.

Sunday's one race starts about noon when everyone is ready, and I picked my favorite and most likely the most difficult course with a great name "Senility". Once again I failed the test of being able to count and sail at the same time, and by the time I got over port tacking Walt and Will and ducking a dozen more sterns I was last place. Watching Art be first to the weather mark and sail away with last of a puff.. The rest of us stacked up on the run to Tunnel and then to Cove. Watched Walt, Bob Hrubes, Will, and others all stall on one side of the run, while Jim Haire, Jennifer McKenna, and Gary all sail high on the fleet and move way up.. Next mark up was North Shore and then Tower.. wind was now kinda light and the fleet was going straight out into the lake into the breeze.. Plus Art was so far ahead was hard to read his sail numbers, I took a flyer out to the left of the fleet hoping the breeze that was on the far end of

the lake would fill. Darn if it didn't do what I was wishing hard for.. breeze filled slowly in my favor and I was lifted over the rest of the fleet.. Then one of the disadvantages of being way way ahead of the fleet descended on the leader and he missed a mark. And he had to sail to the back of the fleet to get back to missed mark.. Mean time Bob, Gary, Will, and I had a great 4 boat race from Stump up to Beach and down to Cross then back to the finish.. Will got the lead and never let the rest of us by.. Finishers that race were Will, Fred, Gary, and Bob with a group right behind them.

Final results were .. top SOBYC sailor Gary Winton, top Woman sailor Deb Fehr, top Junior Wesley Seifers, and first three in fleet.. Fred Paxton, Vaughn Seifers and Will Paxton..

Trophy presentation was soon after the last boat finished with all the trophies displayed on the stump, and from the talk at the beach most of the fleet will be back next year for both the Nationals August 3rd thru the 5th and the worlds August 6th and 7th, make preparations early and have a great family event to look forward to..

Fred Paxton sail #11649



