

## 2018 Flight of the Bulls

This was the year of the big, bad winds. As early afternoon winds were predicted to be in the 20+ range, RC chose to run the “reverse course” heading west to the Lagoon and long canal past Chevys before returning to the kinder, more sheltered eastern canals. Right from the start the lighter sailors were hiking just to get to the Central Lagoon. Winds were stiff to knock down quality at times and from the west all day. The on-off nature of passing from obstructed to unobstructed wind every few seconds made for on-your-toes vigorous racing. But the fleet was up to the task.

Eighteen sailors participated in this year’s event, five juniors and thirteen seniors. There were many position changes up and down the fleet through a good portion of the race. Perennial FOTB winner, Art Lange, was out of the blocks quickly and led the first 80% of the race. Fred Paxton and Gordie Nash were hot on Art’s tail trying to reel him in with only momentary overlaps up to Cloud Park. Vaughn hit the after burners heading north on the Chevy’s channel and closed in behind Art. Art and Vaughn duked it out all the way up and down the east channel with the wind gusting to bow burying strength. As the Toro gods would have it, our little five mile, three hour race came down to final shifts near the bridge at the launch ramp where Vaughn slipped by Art to win 2018 Flight of the Bulls. Art got a well earned second. Santa Cruz sailor, Tom Burden ran a steady and sure race, knocking off the fleet one by one and finishing in third place. RYC sailors Fred Paxton, Gordie Nash and Chris Straub mastered the Foster City winds finishing a side-by-side-by-side fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. Long lost Dennis Silva showed up this year and earned seventh (good to see you Dennis.) John P. managed to stay upright in the late gusts to finish eighth. Nick Nash broke and fixed his vang by himself while on the course and still managed a ninth place finish. Wesley Seifers earned First Junior Honors with a 10<sup>th</sup> place finish. Chris Nash obviously just came to have fun and enjoy himself, but still managed to finish 11<sup>th</sup>. Paul Zander and Dave Groechel from Steven’s Creek finished the day in 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> respectively. Not so little any more, Peter Marlett, go fourteenth place. This was one of the days Junior Chase Englehart probably wished he had a few more pounds of ballast, but still finished in fifteenth place. Junior Elsa Simenstad finished in sixteenth place and took home First Bullette honors for the day. To attest to the challenges of the day rock’in Juniors Joey Marlett and Sam Nash called it a day when they retraced their path to the Central Lagoon. It was blow’in out there!

A big thanks to Hayden Lahr for running the safety boat for us today. And to Kurt Lahr for arranging for and retrieving the RYC whaler for us. And thanks to team Lahr for setting our marks for us. Thanks to Mark Marlett for running our start sequence and taking finishes.

Next year’s Flight of the Bulls will be held Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, always the Saturday before Mother’s Day. See you there!