

Bull Session

News and comment for the El Toro Class

May #335

www.eltoroyra.org

also see,

www.norcalssailing.com

REPORT: **Flight of the Bulls**

The 39th annual Foster City Flight of the Bulls was a tremendous success!

13 El Toro's started the race with a forecasted blustering and building 15+ MPH expected winds. The day turned out to be a perfect day for El Toro's; sunny, warm, with winds in the 10 mph, about normal. Art Lange showed why he has won the past 5 years with a spectacular race. Gordie Nash took the start and was first to the bridge and up to the first mark with John Pacholski pressing him hard. John was able to pass and hold the lead until returning to the small channel where the starting area is. Gordie was able to pass him on a wind shift. Art Lange was showing his tacking strength and came from near the rear of the fleet, passing most everyone to be 3rd place rounding the second weather mark located in the main lagoon.

With fluctuating winds, zephyrs, and strong gusts coming from between buildings, Art was able to pass John on the race to the third mark. Gordie was first, with Art 2 and John in 3rd. Greg Morrill was able pass a few to be 4th at the second mark and hold on to 4th to the 3rd mark. This order was soon to change with Dennis Silva, Chris Straub, and Skip Shapiro passing Greg as the fleet started up the third weather leg and back through the lagoon and a long upwind leg. "I have been waiting for the moment all day" says Dennis who lead the parade of Chris, Dennis, and Skip sailed past Greg.

At the front, Art was finally able to gain a starboard tack at the right hand side of the channel's edge on Gordie. He took the lead on this final up wind leg. Art was able to cover Gordie and John P for the long upwind leg home. Chris, Dennis, and Skip, fought in zephyrs and gusting winds up this long upwind leg, battling each other to settle out for their positions. Vickie found Mother Earth and was aided by Butch Michel to again be able to get back into the sailing actions and chase after Paul Zander, Bruce Bradfute, and Dave Groechel.

With everyone's energy levels drained after this long battle and nearly 3 hours of sailing. Art was able to finish in 2 hours 26 minutes with Gordie 2 minutes behind with John P 1 minute later. Chris, Dennis, Skip and Greg were in sight and all finished within 3 minutes of each other. 87 year old Pete Blasberg was in the battle to the first mark and chose to be first to one of the traditional 'El Toro' brand beer's that our Race Committee Mary and Shelley Morrill had on ice at the start/finish line.

The entire fleet was finished in 2 hours 50 minutes of sailing. The NOR and explanation of this race again proved that this is not a race for the faint of heart or beginners. A lunch, awards, and regatta tee shirts ended the day with a resounding good time for everyone. As has happened often in other Flight of the Bull's races, the lead and positions in the fleet changed multiple times during the event showing that this race "Isn't over till it's over!"

All of us were grateful to Admiral John Fraser, his first mate John Gilmore, and guard dog Nemo who shepherded as our stalwart cowship for the event. Greg Morrill

1. Art Lange 11783
2. Gordie Nash 11500
3. John Pacholski 11815
4. Chris Straub 11760
5. Denis Silva 11800
6. Skip Shapiro 11767
7. Greg Morrill 11770
8. Paul Zander 11868
9. Bruce Bradfute 11746
10. Dave Groechel 10324
11. Butch Michel 11858
12. Vickie Gilmore 11714
13. Pete Blasberg 11401

From Kristen Lenz of Santa Cruz

I am sad I missed Flight of the Bulls, but my son Nicholas and I will be sailing the **Fremont Relays** this Sunday. We are ready to race! See everyone there. We just posted the mail-in entry forms for the **June 6th, Pinto Lake Invitational Regatta** to the regatta page of the website. Here is the information. I hope everyone can join us!

Pinto Lake El Toro Junior & Senior Invitational
Sunday, June 6, 2010

MUSSEL INSPECTION REQUIRED
All boats and gear must be ABSOLUTELY DRY
Mussel Inspection Available
7:00 AM – 3:00 PM Daily

10:00 Registration
11:00 Skipper's Meeting
11:30 or thereafter, First Race
(Up to five races, No starts after 3:30)

This regatta will count towards the El Toro Class Jr. & Sr.
Northern California Season Championship

\$10.00 Regatta Fee (BBQ & Trophies Included)/\$15.00 after 6/1/10

\$5.00 Daily Launch/Inspection Fee (Payable to the City)

2010 schedule

Fremont Relay **May 16** Lake Elisabeth
Pinto Lake **June 6** Santa Cruz
Clear Lake National Championship Series will be **June 18-19-20**
Mayor's Cup LMSC **June 27**
Pinecrest Worlds **August 7-8**
Totally Dinghy RYC **September 25-26**
El Toro Stampede **October 3**
Cork Screw Redwood City **October 9**
Running of the Bulls **November 14** Elkhorn

Clear Lake National Championship Regatta

Sunset Fishing Resort 707:994:6642

entry forms are available on the El Toro web site,,eltoroyra.org
phone info,,,415-332-7269,,,or
gcnjr@earthlink.net