

Latitude 38

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WE GO WHERE THE WIND BLOWS

Great Vallejo Race
SSS TransPac Preview
The Cruiser's Back Porch
West Coast Builders, Pt. 2





Bill Hardesty's family sailed 'Ohana' to a win in the Newport to Ensenada Race; they're the blue boat seen here at the April 27 start in front of 'Problem Child', Dan Rossen and Richard Whitley's B-32.

TOM WALKER / WWW.TOMWALKER.PHOTOGRAPHY

Sluggo, Hobie 33, Richard Yabsley. (17 boats)
PHRF-D — 1) **Ohana**, Swede 55, Joe Markee; 2) **Splendor**, DRI 47.5, Dennis Conner; 3) **Problem Child**, B-32, Dan Rossen/Richard Whitley. (14 boats)

PHRF-E — 1) **Double Down**, J/92, Brian Kerr; 2) **Aloha**, Hobie 33, Kyle Vanderspek; 3) **Orca**, Beneteau First 35, Matt Florez. (9 boats)

PHRF-F — 1) **Day Tripper II**, Hunter 40, Andy Horning; 2) **Miller Time**, Islander 40, Mike Corzine; 3) **Moxie**, Olson 34S, Dugan O'Keene. (13 boats)

PHRF-G — 1) **Cheerio II**, Fellows & Stewart 46, Richard McNish; 2) **Giant Slayer**, Hunter 28.5, Cole & Mike Price; 3) **Ayer Bourne**, Beneteau 37, Paul Ayer. (13 boats)

ORCA-MAXI — 1) **Mighty Merloe**, ORMA 60, H.L. Enloe; 2) **Orion**, MOD70, Tom Siebel. (2 boats)

ORCA-B — 1) **Some Tuesday**, Lagoon 450S, Steve Dunlap; 2) **DéRive**, Lagoon 410, Chris Killian; 3) **Kastor Pollux**, Leopard 43, Jerzy Popranski. (4 boats)

ORCA-A — 1) **Wahoo**, Schionning GF1400, William Gibbs; 2) **Chim Chim**, Gunboat 62, John Gallagher. (3 boats)

CRUZ-SPIN — 1) **Anais**, Hanse 505, Matt Solhjelm; 2) **Freedom**, Beneteau 48, David Normandin; 3) **Fatback**, Hanse 415, Juan Hussong. (3 boats)

CRUZ-GEN — 1) **Rylacade**, Hunter 45cc, Stuart Leigh; 2) **August Dream**, Jeanneau 439, David Lutton; 3) **Lady Jane**, Jeanneau 391, Gregory Dorn; 4) **Wind Rose**, Cabo Rico 40, Walter Simmons. (19 boats)

CRUZ-NON-SPIN — 1) **Paramethia**, Catalina 350, Philip Herzfeld; 2) **Tomol**, Catalina 385, Susan Griesbach; 3) **Tesoro**, Independence 31, Augusto Francisco/Anda Silva. (9 boats)

Full results at www.nosa.org

Crowded Starts at J/Stop

The J/Stop Regatta drew 23 J/105s to St. Francis Yacht Club for a weekend focused more on racing than celebrating. Competition commenced on Saturday, May 5, beneath overcast skies with current just turning from ebb to flood during the first start. As often happens with this highly competitive fleet, the first start led to a general recall as most boats arrived at the line too early and were pushed over. From then on, Saturday's races were started under the 'U' flag rule, and the fleet behaved much better. (Under this rule, a boat caught over the line any time after one minute before her start is disqualified, unless the race is restarted or resailed).

The wind cooperated early, with westerlies building steadily to the mid-teens. Raw conditions prevailed throughout the day, and sailors were commenting on the cold by the end of four races. Fortunately, the sun broke through in time to warm up competitors during post-race beers on the docks.

To the sailors' great credit, Sunday's starts were all under the regular 'P' (Prep) flag, with no boats called over early, and

three races filled out the regatta's final day. Wind was brisker during the second day of racing, reaching into the high teens.

As veteran Bay racers know, the tide initially turns close to shore, so in the early races there was a greater advantage in getting out to the middle of the Bay during the upwind leg to catch the last of the ebb heading out the Gate. To compensate, the race committee set a start line that initially favored the pin, making adjustments for each race as the flood set in across the whole Bay. This made for some interesting starts, as in Race 6: While the bulk of the fleet thought the committee boat end was the place to be, *Arbitrage* and *Mojo* came in from the pin end and port-tacked the whole fleet with

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May's racing stories included:

- Santa Cruz Race Week • Clipper Race
- America's Cup • USMRC Qualifier
- IC37 Launch • Volvo Ocean Race
 - Race to Alaska Update
 - More OYRA Duxship and Singlehanded Farallones
- Previews of the Delta Ditch Run, the Vic-Maui, the reimagined/reinvented Lipton Cup, June races, and more.

THE RACING



CHRIS RAY / WWW.CRAYSAY.COM

Race action at StFYC. Top: The J/Stop Regatta on a mostly gray Cinco de Mayo. It was flooding hard by race time, with breezes of 10-14 knots. "It certainly looked like everyone got all the racing they were hoping for," commented photographer Chris Ray. Bottom: Thursday Kiteboarding in flood on the sunny, windy evening of May 10. "We had an unofficial entry in the form of a humpback whale, who didn't complete the course in the allotted time and hence was scored DNF," quipped Ray.

room to spare. *Arbitrage* went on to win that race and took third overall in the regatta.

Many of the top competitors shuffled first-place finishes, and prizes were awarded for each, so several skippers took home some StFYC glassware.

— amanda witherell

StFYC J/STOP REGATTA, 5/5-6 (7r, 0t)

J/105 — 1) **Blackhawk**, Ryan Simmons, 18 points; 2) **Maverick**, Ian Charles, 25; 3) **Arbitrage**, Bruce Stone, 34; 4) **Ne*Ne**, Tim Russell, 37; 5) **Mojo**, Jeff Littfin, 38. (23 boats)

Full results at www.stfyc.com

Strange Winds, MOB off Point Dume

May's Berger Stein 3 Point Dume and Return race has always seen its share of high winds: The 2017 race had winds that touched 55 knots off Malibu, and a boat capsized.

This year, the Cinco de Mayo forces turned out en masse before the day was over. The race began innocently enough: Winds were clocked at 6-8 knots with

sloppy seas at the start outside Marina del Rey. The breeze built to 25 knots at Point Dume and Topanga Beach before shutting down completely at 5:15. Twenty minutes later the winds came back, and five boats that had stalled out and tangled up at the offset mark near the south end of the breakwater managed to get going and cross the finish line.

During the prior 25-knot breezes and choppy-sea melee, a crewmember of the Tartan 101 *Mistral* fell overboard after the steering cable popped off the quadrant and the boat suffered a full knockdown. "*Mistral* lost steering at 12 knots under kite in 25 knots of breeze, when the rudder cable jumped," explains owner/skipper Dan McGanty. "That led to a hockey-stop round-up and full broach — and with a steering wheel no longer offering support or resistance, Helen on helm took the worst of it." Helen McGanty, Dan's wife, was flung overboard. "She broke ribs hitting the side of the cockpit or guardrail. *Mistral* had to get the kite down to go back for

its MOB — and learned about the lack of steerage once the kite and lines were clear and the engine was started."

Helen treaded water for half an hour before Duncan Cameron and the crew of the Sovereil 33 *Trust Me* heard the SOS. "*Trust Me* was commendably keeping a radio watch and responded to our SOS, and we then directed them to the center of the search area," said Dan.

Cameron steered *Trust Me* seaward and, using proper quadrant sweeps, found a very tired Helen and pulled her out of the water. Fortunately, she is a very strong swimmer and is doing well, having been released from the hospital the following day.

The fluky winds provided for a wide separation of finishes with David Inglis and Cowbell Sailing's Farr 11s *Stray Dog* claiming line honors despite sailing the longer 32-mile course. *Dog* got first in PHRF A and sailed the course in a bit over five hours. The last finisher, the Catalina 34 MkII *Makani II*, came in a little after 7:45.

— andy kopetzky

BERGER STEIN 3 POINT DUME, 5/5

PHRF A — 1) **Stray Dog**, Farr 11s, Cowbell Sailing; 2) **Groundhog Day**, Melges 32, Rich Festa; 3) **Amazing Grace**, Farr 57, Jim Puckett. (9 boats)

PHRF B — 1) **Fanky**, Melges 24, Joaquin Gutierrez; 2) **Zephyr**, J/109, Jack Mayer; 3) **Double Down**, J/92, Brian Kerr. (9 boats)

PHRF C — 1) **Rubicon III**, Contessa 33, Rodney Percival; 2) **Zulu**, J/29, Team Zulu; 3) **Redline**, Santana 30/30 GP, Derek Heeb. (4 boats)

CRUISER A — 1) **Duchess**, Catalina 42 MkII, Ron Jacobs; 2) **Va Pensiero**, Brooklin 48, Joseph Weber; 3) **Trueblue**, Beneteau 50, Rick Clemenson. (13 boats)

CRUISER B — 1) **Bar-Tabac**, Challenger 32, Arnaud Massonnat; 2) **Andiamo**, Catalina 38, David Stoltz; 3) **Chutzpah**, Catalina 36 MkII, Andrew Natker. (7 boats)

ORCA — 1) **Caribbean Soul**, F-31, Alfred Broussard; 2) **Mako**, F-27, M. Kreke. (2 boats)

Full results at www.dryc.org

Memorable OYRA Duxship

This year's OYRA Duxship Race will be remembered by everyone who sailed it. Most participants can't remember sailing two beats and one reach/run on the triangular course that starts at StFYC, heads north to the Duxbury Reef Buoy off Bolinas, out to the Lightship, and back to the StFYC. Ask anyone who's sailed the race and they'll answer, "Beat, Reach, Run," as the drill. The May 12 race proved the exception. All week