

Ultimate 20 Matt Boroughf Trophy — Junta

Mark Allen, NoYC

"Mark Allen and Donna Womble and Team *Peabody* from Monterey Peninsula YC battled all season, exchanging firsts and seconds," reports Mike Josselyn, chair for the Ultimate 20 Southwest District. "The races were held on venues from San Francisco Bay to Monterey Bay and Huntington Lake, and included the Three Bridge Fiasco, the Richmond YC Midwinters, the U20 Pacific Coast Championships, the High Sierra Regatta, RYC's Big Daddy and Great Pumpkin, and Tiburon YC's HO Lind Series, among others.

"Fourteen races were scored, with no throwouts, though the high-point scoring system only scores for those races that the boat participated in, and they must participate in at least seven races.

"While 14 boats participated throughout the season at various venues, eight qualified to be eligible for scoring, and included sailors from as far as Salt Lake City."

"This year was a challenge for the team," recounts Mark Allen. "The Richmond Midwinters were not as balmy as last year, and we had to get used to sailing in the rain. That dropped attendance, but we found ourselves battling with *Peabody*, the champions of Monterey. They led the series after the midwinters.

"Then came the Three Bridge Fiasco.



Mark Allen

It was my first Three Bridge, and it didn't disappoint. Our motor decided not to cooperate helping us get to the start from Richmond, so we decided to sail. We found ourselves in the heavy fog in the Slot in an ebb with no wind getting flushed out the Gate as our start time came and went. We couldn't anchor, and it was too much to try and scull the boat to Horseshoe Bay. Luckily, the wind finally filled in, and we started about an hour late for the race. We lucked out and were able to make contact with a couple of the other U20s. We placed last in the four that entered but were mid-fleet overall.

"The Pacific Coast Championship in Monterey was a highlight — great racing over three days. Once again we were trading places with *Peabody* on their home waters, and they were dominating for most of the regatta. It came down to the last race, where whoever finished in front would win overall. *Peabody* led around the final windward mark with us two boats behind. We had a great downwind leg trying to surf every swell and



'Ravenette' ducks another J/88 during the 2023 Rolex Big Boat Series.

crossed the line about 2 feet in front of *Peabody* for the overall win.

"We also traveled to Lake Norman, North Carolina, and competed in the U20 North Americans. It had a great turnout, with 24 boats on the water. After three days of racing we finished third overall in our 12th U20 NAs."

Mark's team included Trent Watkins and Trent's son Cooper, who sails in RYC's junior program. This is their second year as season champions

I was forced to find new work. I took a job in Connecticut and will not be part of the U20 series next year. I am saddened by this — the Bay is an extraordinary place to sail. Now I am relegated to Long Island Sound, where it always blows and sometimes there is wind."

ULTIMATE 20 (14r, 0t)

1) **Junta**, 90%; 2) **Peabody**, Donna Womble, MPYC, 87.5%; 3) **Breakaway**, John Wolfe, RYC, 46.3%. (14 boats, 8 qualifiers)

More info at www.u20class.org

1/194 — Emil Octopus