

A WEALTH OF ONE DESIGNS

ALL PHOTOS LATITUDE / CHRIS EXCEPT AS NOTED

Octopus team ventured to Miami for the J/24 Worlds this past October. We also cobbled together two crews to go down to Valle de Bravo in late April/early May for the J/24 North Americans. Last but not least, we set up our own very casual Ditch event and took a couple of J/24s to Rio Vista for the long Fourth of July holiday weekend. We had a resoundingly awesome time."

"This was a pretty challenging season for us," said Darren Cumming. "We had a fairly slow start, not placing very well in the first couple of events. I also skipped the Great Vallejo Race this year to watch the foiling catamarans. All this made it feel like we were playing catch-up the rest of the year. We found our legs in the end and posted a lot of regatta wins in the second half of the season."

"StFYC's Spring One Design was pretty tough. We had to sail that one shorthanded, unfortunately. Conditions got the better of us, and it just wasn't possible for us to sail competitively. We finished the weekend with smiles, but we were down in the standings."

"The final regatta of the season, the Great Pumpkin, was pretty exciting. Everything was just clicking aboard

Darren Cumming and Melissa Litwicki



Downtown. We had good starts and were on the correct side of the course. Our maneuvers were so fast and fluid, it just felt great. We scored three bullets for the day and clinched the season win.

"Loren Moore joined us (on trim) again

for the majority of the season events. We enjoy his strength and expertise. Carol Holder was new to *Downtown* this season. Carol is super-fun to sail with, and a big contributor to our success. Melissa, my partner in *Downtown Uproar*, continues as most talented and valuable foredeck. Marina Modlin and Paul Zimmer, each continuing on from last year, joined us for several events this year. Ilya Fishman, Ivan Hayes, Michele Soumpton and even Loren's cousin from Switzerland, Eli, all joined us in a race this year. We're happy to share the boat and good times with them all."

For their winter season, the J/24 fleet is joining Jeff Zarwell's Winter One Design. "But there are regular informal Sunday fun matches run out of Richmond — our own 'Frosty' series — if people want to bring out their own boats to join or are looking to crew," advises Litwicki. "Interested folks can reach out to us via www.facebook.com/j24sf."

1) **Downtown Uproar**, 44 points; 2) **Shut Up and Drive**, Valentin Lulevich, OPBYC, 49; 3) **Evil Octopus**, Jasper Van Vliet, RYC, 63. (6 boats)

Knarr — Niuhi

Randy Hecht/Russ Silvestri, StFYC

The Bay Area Knarr fleet has a heavy schedule: 29 races with 5 throwouts, ending with the Leukemia Cup on October 20.

Russ Silvestri's favorite event of the season was the Resin Regatta at SFYC in April. He recalls "sailing home in 35 knots, laughing all the way at the absurdity. Resin Regatta was really, really windy! Knarrs are strong boats. We had a good series. We got good starts, had OK upwind speed and fast downwind, which I credit to La-

ser and Finn sailing, where you go by the lee to reaching to ride the wave.

"Other highlights are the family dinners after the Wednesday night races at StFYC — a ton of fun."

The International Knarr Champion-

ship (IKC), hosted by SFYC in September, was by far their most difficult regatta. It required a different mindset. "The team was committed all year to the task of winning the IKC. We had a set of objectives and key results that drove our effort all year. We missed out on a few boatspeed things in the breeze, but we've learned what they are now."

Randy Hecht owns the boat; Silvestri drives. (Hecht was traveling when we prepared this report.) The crew this year were Ethan Doyle, trim; and Nick Leal, bow; with Spencer Cole and Halsey Richartz filling in.

Incidentally, Russ is the latest inductee into the Redwood High School (in Larkspur, class of '79) Hall of Fame.

In 2020, Silvestri says they plan to "go to Bergen, with Randy driving!" Bergen, Norway, will host the next IKC in August.

See www.knarr.us.

1) **Niuhi**, 57 points; 2) **Jon Perkins**, Aquavit, SFYC, 77; 3) **Gjendin**, Graham Green, StFYC, 120. (20 boats)

Ultimate 20 — U Decide Phil Kanegsberg, RYC

This year, the Ultimate 20 fleet sailed the RYC Midwinters and Big Daddy, the Behrens and HO Lind at Tiburon YC, the Pacific Coast Championship at Monterey Peninsula YC, the North Americans at Sandpoint Sailing Center in Idaho, and the Great Pumpkin back at RYC.

The season ended with a tie. "The tie was broken based on the number of races where the two boats competed, and Phil had more wins over Dave Woodside," reports fleet captain Mike Josslyn.

U Decide's favorite regatta was the PCCs, for great attendance with a good group of people and diverse sailing conditions. "Donna Womble (*Peabody*) and MPYC put on a great event and helped with housing in an expensive area," reports Denise Hammond.

"The Nationals provided some interesting sailing weather. Rain is almost never pleasant to sail in (or to wait to sail in). The Great Pumpkin offered the following insight: If your crew tells you 'No, it is once around,' don't follow the lead boat. (Drivers: *Always* listen to the tactician. Even if they are wrong, you will not hear the end of it if you don't.) Phil



Russ Silvestri

SEASON CHAMPIONS, PART II —



U DECIDE

Left to right: Phil and Torston Kanegsberg, Ruby, Shawn MacCabe and Denise Hammond at the East Keystone Canyon trailhead in northwest Reno. "Don't all of your sailors send pictures from the desert?" quipped Hammond.

threw away a first with that maneuver."

Joining the crew in various races were Mike Josselyn, Julian Slee, Shawn MacCabe and Michael Mayberry. Phil and Denise loaned out their son Torston to Dave Woodside on *UAgain* and Michael Eisenberg on *Toon Town*. "He likes to beat us," said Denise.

"It has been an interesting year for us. Julian Slee, our regular third and favorite Aussie ex-pat, injured himself and could not race for much of the year. The weather for the Midwinters forced the cancellation of January and February's races (which we appreciated since driving over from Reno involves the I-80 pass and ugly driving conditions in that weather)." Denise significantly injured her hand in May and therefore didn't race as a functioning crew again until the Great Pumpkin.

"Shawn MacCabe and Phil drove 13 hours from Reno to Sand Point, ID, with only one trailer flat tire on the way. It only took Phil and Shawn 20 minutes to change the tire (advantages to having great tools — thanks Shawn), and then a 45-minute detour to get new tires in La Grande, OR.

"The competition was close, and we

only just barely squeaked by on a tie-breaker. Basically, some lucky breaks let us be in front of Dave."

U Decide's plans for 2020 include the RYC Midwinters and Big Daddy; Go for the Gold ("Torston typically drives for this one and crew is typically Denise and a friend of Torston's that typically has never sailed or raced before. The boys enjoy the swimming and racing against some great Catalina 22s"); PCCs ("the date is not set for this, so there may be a conflict with

Go for the Gold"); High Sierra; and Great Pumpkin.

"Torston is hoping to be a sailing in-

committee for Big Dinghy, Lipton Cup and Totally Dinghy."

1) **U Decide**, 44.4 points; 2) **UAgain**, Dave Woodside, RYC, 4.4; 3) **Breakaway**, John Wolfe, RYC, 29.6. (8 boats)

Cal 20 — *Baby Blue*

Craig McDow/Chris Cassell, CYC

"Attendance at our fleet regattas was light this year, to put it mildly," said the Cal 20 fleet captain, Richard vonEhrenkrook. "However, two boats attended every race, one sometimes while actually falling apart. This did not dissuade their skipper, nor their stalwart crew. When others bailed out, sometimes for justifiable reasons, sometimes not, one boat came out to play, regardless of the prospects for victory.

"That boat was Dr. Craig McDow's *Baby Blue*, ably crewed by Chris Cassell, her co-owner. In the Big Daddy, when others headed for home, they stayed and competed. In the Resin Regatta, they stayed and competed, even when they had a delaminating main bulkhead. Fully repaired, they came out for the CBRA series when others stayed home. And, in the Great Pumpkin, they showed up, along with the other three of us Cal 20s. They did us proud.



BABY BLUE

Chris Cassell and Craig McDow

structor at Lake Tahoe this summer. (He was a Junior Instructor last summer.) In addition, we try to make Sail a Small Boat Day at RYC, and help with race

"Therefore, I propose to the fleet members that *Baby Blue* be given the Honorary Fleet Champion award for this year. This is not intended as a 'goodminton' or 'everyone's a winner' award, but instead