

THE RACING

GOOSE GOSSMAN



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OYRA DRAKE'S BAY RACE 1, 8/20

PHRO 1 — No finishers. (3 boats)

PHRO 2 — No finishers (2 boats)

PHRO 3 — No finishers. (3 boats)

MULTIHULL — 1) **Bottle Rocket**, Seacart 30 GP+, David Schumann. (3 boats)

OYRA DRAKE'S BAY RACE 2, 8/21

PHRO 1 — 1) **Leading Lady**, 1D35, Andrew Lindstrom; 2) **Twist**, J/120, Timo Bruck. (2 boats)

PHRO 2 — 1) **Elan**, Express 37, Jack Peurach. (1 boat)

PHRO 3 — 1) **Ahi**, Santana 35, Andy Newell; 2) **Sea Star**, Cal 39, Bob Walden; 3) **Gypsy Lady**, Cal 34 Mkl, Val Clayton. (3 boats)

MULTIHULL — 1) **Bottle Rocket**; 2) **Round Midnight**, Explorer 44, Richard Waltonsmith; 3) **Caliente**. (3 boats)

Full results at www.jibeset.net

Ultimate 20 North Americans

The wind gods brought plenty of speed to the Ultimate 20 sportboats during their North Americans. Hosted by Richmond YC on September 9-11, 11 boats from as far away as North Carolina, Oregon and Utah showed up to fill the club's turning basin.

PRO Fred Paxton started the regatta with three races on the Berkeley Circle as the southwesterly winds built throughout the day. The steep Bay chop made for a wet ride upwind, but allowed for downwind surfing. With crews packed aft, the 1,200-lb boats demonstrated their ability to accelerate in the puffs. Steve Shaw, a for-

mer sailmaker and current sailing coach and consultant, established his credentials on 20/20 with three bullets. Local boats sailed by Mark Allen (*Junta*) and Scott Hester (*Umunhum*) vied for second.

"A unique tradition for the U20s is a debriefing each day by the lead boats on the secrets to their speed," said regatta chair John Wolfe. "It is an essential part of keeping all the boats competitive and the owners improving their techniques."

Day 2 promised lighter winds, but instead they were stronger. After the first buoy race and just before the planned long-distance race, the winds were building up to 20 knots. While the big boats practicing at the western end of the Circle were having trouble with their big sails, the U20s took off for Alcatraz. However, it was soon apparent that with gusts in the high 20s, several of the boats were struggling, and the race was abandoned.

Moving over to Southampton, a second mark race was held. By this time, Steve Shaw was clearly the dominant skipper with Mark Allen second. Only the third podium place was in play, with Donna Womble's *Peabody* team from Monterey and Travis Gregory's #222

from Park City a point apart.

Later that evening, Jeff Canepa, who was responsible for envisioning the U20 back in the late '80s; Jim Antrim, who designed the boat in the '90s; and Craig Smith, who built them and continues to work magic to keep them going almost 30 years later, shared a lot of stories over beers and dinner.

By Day 3, most of the sailors were exhausted and the winds lightened. Two mark races were held. A gust of current hit the weather mark just as the boats were already set up on their layline, resulting in many hitting the mark or having to come back up on port, resulting in many circles being taken as boats cleared their fouls. "No collisions or yelling," commented RC member Jeff Cook, "just amazing ballet on the water."

Steve Shaw won his second North American championship in the U20s. "San Francisco Bay delivered with speed, excitement, and lessons learned for all of us," said Steve. "Just glad to have success in this boat."

— mike josselyn

ULTIMATE 20 NA, RYC, 9/9-11 (7r, 1t)

1) 20/20, Steve Shaw, Lake Norman YC, 6

MIKE JOSSELYN



MICHAEL FIALA

DAVID BARNARD



MARIKO BIRD

points; 2) **Junta**, Mark Allen, BRSC, 15; 3) **Pea-body**, Donna Womble, MPYC, 18. (11 boats)
Full results at www.richmondyc.org

Santa Cruz 27 Nationals in Morro Bay

The spontaneous "Fast is fun! Fast is fun!" chant rang out in the crowd. Santa Cruz 27 designer and National Sailing Hall of Fame inductee Bill Lee, aka the Wizard, presenting the Santa Cruz 27 championship awards was the pinnacle of a fantastic weekend at Morro Bay YC.

Held September 3-5, the SC27 Nationals was the first ocean keelboat regatta at the club in more than 20 years. Morro Bay YC pulled out all the stops for the visiting fleet.

Four out of 12 of the participating boats call Morro Bay home. They managed to recruit the fleet of road dogs to travel from Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, San Francisco Bay and Lake Tahoe for the event.

It showed incredible enthusiasm to plan and execute such a rare regatta in the small, unique venue of Morro Bay. Challenges included finding space to rig and launch almost a dozen boats with a commercial crane (provided by regatta sponsor Associated Pacific Constructors, Inc., embarcadero neighbors of the club) and rafting the race boats and the race committee boats to the tiny guest dock. Club and fleet volunteers put together a detailed event program, beautiful post-

Top row: Ultimate 20 North American champions Steve Shaw, Tim Porter and Ryan Janov; U20 action in the East Bay. Bottom row: Santa Cruz 27 national champions — with the designer — Bill Blazer, Claire Hunt, Bill Lee, Chris Deaver, Ron Boehm, Evan Diola and JV Gilmour (with Noche, who sailed all the races); light breeze and lumpy seas made for challenging conditions.

ers, SC27 half-hull trophies, and even fun RC Cola-themed committee T-shirts that were so numerous in the crowd.

The weekend had everything: tight, competitive racing, challenging light and lumpy conditions, a unique venue, five buoy races the first day, even the drama of the entire fleet embroiled in a protest situation regarding a unique local course gate on Day 2. There were as many views on the subject as there were creative ways to round an offset gate. After much consternation and discussion Sunday night, early Monday morning the PRO diplomatically declared the distance race of Day 2 to be abandoned. This decision avoided any further lawyering or hearings so the fleet could get back to racing. Day 3 was a repeat of the distance race finishing in the harbor channel.

California Zephyr, skippered by Ron Boehm of Santa Barbara YC, dominated the leaderboard and took first place overall and first place in the distance race.

In notable leadership roles were Morro Bay YC commodore Troy Wieck, local SC27 fleet captain John Krossa, SC27 national class president Ryan Schuyler, and Morro Bay YC ocean fleet captain Jon Hovdal. For those planning future

events, the bar could not be higher!

— will anderson

SANTA CRUZ 27 NATIONALS, MORRO BAY YC, 9/3-5 (6r, 1t)

1) **California Zephyr**, Ron Boehm, Santa Barbara YC, 8 points; 2) **Water Dragon**, Derek Weitz/John Neville, SCYC, 15; 3) **Lickety Split**, Rick Raduziner, Tahoe YC/RYC, 15. (12 boats)

Full results at www.regattanetwork.com

Mercury Labor Day Regatta

Pebble Beach served up some great racing for the 71st running of Stillwater YC's **Labor Day Regatta**, held a week ahead of the traditional dates. A moderate southwesterly breeze took the Mercury fleet out to the middle of Carmel Bay, minimizing the shore effect and kelp-dodging. John Ravizza and Chris Boome sailed an almost perfect series with four bullets and a second. Randy Hecht held off Shaum Sinawi for second place. Drake Baldwin turned in a good performance to win the Silver Fleet. Results and photos are at www.sycpb.org.

— dick clark

Herb Meyer Cup in South Beach

Two racers dominated their respective