



PHRF PERSPECTIVE
September 2002

Racing at the So Cal PHRF Championships

Racing is a result of the competitive fire that burns within nearly all of us. Cable TV brings into focus the extent to which we go to compete. Pickup trucks with NASCAR-like preparation costing more than a nice house, weekend warriors racing lawnmowers, dogsleds, remote controlled model airplanes and, just as goofy, sailboats at the breakneck speed of maybe, 8 Miles Per Hour! Goofy or not, competing is fun. And competing on a sailboat is even more fun! We have chosen our poison and competing against the best is what we are after.

Each year Southern California PHRF puts on a Championship Regatta at different locations. Racing in a championship event is an opportunity to put yourself and team on the line against the best competitors to do battle, compare and learn. Having a chance to win too is part of the attraction. And maybe, just maybe, if it all that preparation and practice comes together with a little luck or divine intervention, you get to experience that rare and wonderful glowing feeling of victory.

Heard around the docks at this year's PHRF Championship:

"I'm sure glad this regatta was held outside 'cause we really, really stunk up the joint today!" --a boat owner and racer

"We didn't get schooled, we got our butts handed to us!" --his crewman.

This year, Long beach Yacht Club graciously hosted the event on August 10 and 11. Boats from Santa Barbara and San Diego participated. Hospitality was, as usual, of the highest caliber. Slips and end-ties were made available to the visiting competitors and everybody there at LBYC was as helpful and friendly as is usually the case.

However, Saturday morning the weather sucked. Fog shut down visibility to about a boat length or two. We had to navigate our way out to the start line being careful not to beach the boat on an oil island. But slowly, the fog began lifting and the wind built quickly to a typical Long Beach afternoon peak of about 17 knots. Temperature was in the high 70's. Great weather for sailboat racing!

There were five PHRF buoy (windward-leeward) racing classes. That permitted narrow rating bands for close racing in each class. Ratings in Class B ranged from 51 to 87 for a span of just 36 Seconds per mile. (Ratings are expressed in seconds per mile speed potential.) Narrow splits like this allow the slowest boat to "stay in touch" with the faster boats in the class. This retains tactical considerations as a part of the racing, making it more than just a speed contest. Class C spanned just 33 Seconds Per Mile. Great racing!

More dock comments

"I don't do a-sails, dude; regular chutes, cool." --an accomplished foredeck man.

"Floggings will continue until morale improves." --printed on a skipper's T-shirt.

"The floggings should continue until we get this boat to point!" --same skipper.

"I'll show you my boat later. The crew's working on something and I'm afraid they'll put us to work." --a boat owner.

There were two "Random Leg" Classes established. This type of racing is point- to-point; like distance racing. This gives "Cruiser Class" type boats an opportunity to compete with the racers. Six and seven boats in A and B respectively were sent on one longer race each day. On Saturday, the A class was sent on a 16.1-mile course and the B Class boats were sent on a 14.5-mile course.

Two start-finish line venues were established. The bigger boats and RLC racers were outside the LB breakwater. The B, C and D class boats raced inside. The start-finish lines and buoys were square, the right length and the race committee work was reported to be nearly perfect, as might be expected from LBYC.

On Sunday the wind went light with the breeze getting to about 8 knots inside the breakwater. There was no fog and the day was truly sparkling, but really hot! LBYC considerably moved the after-race party to the shaded side of the club and that was really a break! (Thanks guys!) Everybody seemed to have an enjoyable weekend (even the last place guys!) and the camaraderie was really "warm and fuzzy." Food was good and hot; brew was

cold, T-shirts handsome and even the weather for the trip home the next couple of days was just about perfect. Just another weekend racing in paradise.

Make plans next year to participate! The August 2003 Championships regatta is to be held in Marina Del Rey the week after the Santa Barbara/King Harbor (five miles to MDR) and hosted by Del Rey Yacht Club.

RESULTS: The Championship Team is SOUTHWESTERN YACHT CLUB

Buoy Class A

1. Loren Colahan	RIO	SBYC	9pts.
2. Oscar Krinsky	CHAYAH	ABYC	14
3. Cita Litt	CITA	BYC	18

Buoy Class B

1. Scott Taylor	DEFIANCE	CBYC	11 Pts
2. Ray Godwin	WHIPLASH	LBYC	12
3. Tom O'Neill	NOTORIUS	MBYC	17

Buoy Class C

1. Andrea Cabito	SCOOTER	ABYC	10 Pts
2. Joseph Degenhardt	LICKITY SPLIT	BCYC	15
3. David Hammett	D'n'A	BCYC	18

Buoy Class D

1. Terry Gleeson	MIDNIGHT EXPRESS	SWYC	5 Pts
2. Matt Barrett	CINDY BEE	LSF	16
3. Dave Rustigan	CARDINAL SIN	ABYS	16

Random Leg Class A

1. Kirk Wilson	BAY WOLF	CBYC	2Pts
2. David Grey	PENDRAGON	SSYC	5
3. Cole Price	ZIPPY	ABYC	8

Random Leg Class B

1. Juergen Brinker	MARIAH	SWYC	2 Pts
2. Bruce Cameron	PANDEMONIUM	SDYC	5
3. Dennis Godfirmon	ARIES	CRA	9

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