

2019 BUOY RACE SEASON UNDERWAY!

Howdy sailors;

Suppose they gave a race and no wind came? This almost happened on our seasons first buoy race, but after a 15 minute wind delay, enough wind filled in to kick the races off. Blue sky, flat water, variable light winds, 70 degrees and the boats were off on a shortened course. Both 168 races saw close starts at the line with Val on *Tranquility* taking the pole position, *Lakota* with Teresa on the helm slipped by to take the windward rounding first. These two got away into a receding pressure line that kept them moving downwind with speed. The other two boats were left fighting their way out of an enlarging area of no pressure. *Lakota* took the first race, followed by *Tranquility*, *Blew by You* and *In the Red*.

The Open fleet of two started five minutes later with Julie on *Showtime* blasting off the starting line and forcing Jim on *Sante'* into a long chase. *Sante* and crew hung in there and eventually caught *Showtime* on the downwind spinnie run when *Showtime* sailed into a hole. In the second race *Sante'* was over the line first with *Showtime* now chasing. *Showtime*, now with Burt at the helm and his crew slowly reeled in *Sante'* and took this race. Looks like a tie for first in this division. All boats in both divisions sailed with spinnakers.

The second race for the 168s started off with a little more steady pressure mixed in. Two to three boats were right at the start line together and the race was off. A couple of tacks later and another gal at the helm on *Red* was taking over the lead. Gale Lakewood on *Red* now fought off *Lakota* and *Blew* breathing down her neck after the windward rounding, with *Tranquility* jibing over to hwy. 20 and all meeting up again at the leeward rounding. *Red* had held the lead and extended slightly with *Lakota* rounding next, followed by *Blew* and *Tranquility*. This procession sailed across the finish line in that order. All four boats finished within a little more than a minute between them. This is one design racing in light variable winds ... looking to be a very close season for all four boats. *Lakota* is at the top of the pops this month, but a total of 2 points is all that separates the next three boats.

The races would not happen without the most important boat of all. The committee boat was crewed by Alan Clapham and Gary Jolley. We owe them a big round of thanks. Our veteran committee boat crew had their hands full trying to keep radios working, their engine running and us on course. THANK YOU ALAN AND GARY!! We are also happy to point out that we have 4 women on the tillers of our 6 boats in this race. Many boats were carrying 4 crew, for a total of 22 sailors racing. Also of note is the mother/son racing duo of Gale and Gus Lockwood on *In the Red*. We have been lucky to attract talented bay area racers to come and race with us and appreciate the time they are taking to come up for a day of racing on our lake!

Bob Robinson

Race Director