

Buoy Series Races of May 13, 2017

We had a spectacular day of racing for our May Buoys with solid winds and big Cumulus clouds joining the field of competitors for our season debut. Nine boats came out with some measure of caution. The forecast and conditions looked "challenging" and many had smaller foresails ready or in play as post time approached. The Committee Boat crew of Suzie Britz, Anita McClary, and Alan Clapham were joined by Bob Robinson's good friend Ilona and may have had more fun than the racers. They set a longer overall course but the winds still had boats zipping around in very good times. Some thought the winds may have approached Bay strengths and with the venue set in the Clearlake Arm, the read on the water of waves and / or whitecaps wasn't true to the actual strength so I'll just say somewhere around 15kts with a puff or two here and there. It was clean and while there were shifts, it wasn't erratically so.

It was nice to see the **Open Fleet** picking up old friend **Yakkity Yak** to bump the fleet up a notch, while **Knot Stressin'** DNC'd and Paul Richardson crewed on **Seahawk**. The fleet usual suspects of **Lil' Bit**, **Santé**, and **Showtime** rounded out the list - some with new Club members / crew! Because of the blustery conditions, the **Open Fleet** elected to forgo chutes (and since everyone did so, there is no correction to the handicapping). I can't give a play by play but did witness some close finishes, particularly by **Santé**

squeaking ahead one race and just behind on another. **Lil' Bit** and **Showtime** tied for the day and have a fun season ahead if things continue!

The **168s** were in their element in this breeze, just at the high end of optimal genoa performance IF one could keep the boat flat. Most boats were fully crewed, except **Blew By You** which was double-handed by Nate Duff and new-to-the-fleet Dave Bennett. They were joined by John Diedrich in the second race after equipment issues retired **Always Saturday** in the first. **Seahawk** benefitting from experience and owned the first race, contrasted by the newbies in **BBY** edging **Lakota**. **Tranquillity** was able to recover ground lost in the short beat to weather but not quite enough.

The second race, **Lakota** started low but was able to climb past the two boats above her and move to the lead and successfully defended the rest of the race. **Seahawk** and **Tranquillity** traded the leads at least three times on the longer 1.5 lap course but **Seahawk** took second to round out the day's series in first.

It was a great return of buoy racing to this year's season. Next race is the Three Island Fiasco 5/27.

Brad King, Race Director

[Sailwave results](#)