

Here are the results for the 2017 Konocti Cup.

The day broke clear and warm and spirits were high Saturday morning for our 33rd racing of the Cup. The breakfast spread continues to excel with lots of great coffee and light vittles provided by our club for the racers. We took care of the pre-race essentials and went to our boats. This day's Committee Boat crew was Alan Clapham, Suzie Britz, and Anita McClary and the Coast Guard Auxiliary 88 helped set the course. Though the winds were light, the starts proceeded on time and 28 competitors in four fleets sailed off with hopes of glory. In the Full cup there was a quick separation of a group that got caught out as a shift skewed the start line and put them well back. Out in front, three of the four Wabbits broke away but it was too light to hike so though they could only distance themselves a bit at a time. By the rounding at #2, There were three distinct groups of Full cup racers, the Wabbits, then four Capri 25s, then the rest of the slate. Coming back down from #2 in the Narrows, the early starters crossed both the Corsair Tri Wings and the Santana 20 Presto! were leading their divisions but the upper Clear Lake basin was ominously calm.

Those that got around #2 at Kono-Tay-Ee in the next half hour were sailing away from the weakening breeze, but gradually it gathered in each and every competitor. Most of the Half Cup divisions got stuck somewhere between KT and Konocti, but last year's Half Cup winner Presto! was able to repeat her victory and Santé brought home the honors for the White sails (Jim says THANK YOU ARLENE!!). The Multis all got snared in the light air and retired. It seems we sometimes just can't win. We plan our starts for the afternoon breezes to pick up and the multis could start late and zoom around the course - not this day.

Way down the course, the stragglers kept praying those same breezes would sweep down and they'd be back in the hunt. Stuck between 6 and 7, Seahawk and Lakota watched three of the four Wabbits apparently lose sight of #8 and have to radically alter course to get back on track - OUCH! The four Capris traded leads in a tight pack but throughout the day Blew By You was the boat that would break free. When that pack stalled between 7 & 8, Blue was well ahead and In The Red, Puddle Jumper, and Tranquillity Base were seeking ANY puff to move past the last rounding and head home. The rest of the fleet retired and while the Wabbits and Blue rounded and started up the North edge of the Clearlake shore in a sliver of breeze, the Capris drifted. Gradually we saw the Wabbits come through the pass at Monitor Point, then Blue, The rest of the Capris then followed and there actually started to be wind again, but some shifts still appeared and, while skill was evident in every finisher, fates may have played as much of a role as perseverance. The four Wabbits finished in order but only Cup Victor, Kwazy could stay ahead ahead on their handicap. Blue was the first of the Capris with Tranquillity rounding out the podium.

Everything in this year's race ran so smoothly, it's a shame that we missed out on good breezes to have a perfect Cup. As race director, I wouldn't take any credit when so many others need to be recognized. In particular, I need to thank Chet Britz and Bob Robinson for the diverse and numerous everything else category that included arranging anything from regatta shirts to a sandwich or two for volunteers. Our website performed terrifically including the on line registration and sales created by Val Adase and TJ Mickel. The sponsors continue to step up in a spectacular way in order to promote our Club, our venue and our sport. Our Commodore Paul Richardson kept everybody on task and focused. So many others helped clean, organize, inspect, feed, and entertain us all at this biggest race.

ThankYouThankYouThankYou

Brad King, Vice Commodore

