

Yes, the Monster got sailed and it was actually pretty fun!

We had five boats, all short handed except **Santé**, sail our Monster this year. With the forecast break in the heat deciding it wouldn't be a Monster without cooking many decided to do *anything* but sail. Still, we had the Capri contingent well represented with the 26, Santé, joined by three 25s: **Tranquillity Base, Lakota, and Seahawk**, plus the Hastings brought in the Corsair 28 tri **Habit 1** to make things interesting. We placed a buoy at Long Tule Point in the hope that we might stay under power for the whole race and to keep up the distance, added Blue Boat House to the mix.

Santé sailed out first in our typical long race pursuit format with the 168s waiting 18 minutes and the hot rod going for beer and groceries while waiting for their handicap time to elapse. While there was breeze up through the Narrows, gradually it got lighter and lighter until we were all ghosting along wondering where the propulsion was coming from. Santé was reeled in by Seahawk as both went low by the State Park while T-Base and Lakota worked the North shore as long as possible then aimed for Lakeport. Seahawk had to tack and went way above the fleet, maybe hoping for the typical fill from the NW but clouds came in from the South and breezes first disappeared. It was light enough for some to take swim breaks since "nothin' from nothin' is still nothin'". Then as the wind became Southwesterly. T-base was well positioned for the shift, rounded the mark first and said sayonara.

But WAIT, if it was a reach coming back down the lake that means...Here comes the Trimaran! The Hastings had some drama and had a pretty good shot as they chipped away at the massive lead Tranquillity had amassed. At the finish, it was close enough to pay attention and the leaders felt pretty good that it at least had some drama but Tranquillity defended her title successfully again and won the 2017 Monster Long Race.

Congratulations to Val Adase and Bob Robinson

Tranquillity ghosting her way to Lakeport.



But wait.....

What's that? I have egg on my face. Hmmmm....

Being waay out of the running and even at the dock, I somehow missed seeing or hearing about what apparently was a great come from behind victory,

I now have been informed that the **MONSTER RACE 2017 was won** by da-da-dataaaa!

HABIT 1/ Paul and Laurie Hastings

Apologies are in order, maybe a fruit basket too. Every so often I am tempted to add the following to my missives:

“This is a work of fiction, any similarities to characters and events real or imagined in this report is coincidental.”

(Except the paragraphs above)