

Greetings sailors!

We had a lovely Sunday Long Race sailing our Single Hand long race. Five skippers met with the wind blowing 8-10 with stronger gusts from the East until just before the start then it reversed to the NW and mellowed to a mild and steady 5 mph(!). Instead of a pursuit race and because we had volunteer spectators and observers willing to watch the finish and check times, if needed, we ran a full fleet start and the heavier boats could gain from the knowledge of the leaders testing the air out ahead. Using OSIRs course #34, KT-Rattlesnake, 9.45 mi, only the Capris elected to fly chutes and thus the margin for finishing was a respectable 10:14 or better.

We had **Showtime** and **Santé**, **Tranquillity Base** and **Lakota**, and Chris Kichinka joining in on the Olsen 25 **Pops**. As usual, without our expert Alan Clapham's direction in setting a course, the race committee (me) set a too short start / finish line, even for just five boats but there were no conflicts on the start. Tranquillity got out ahead and stretched her lead all day. the Cal 25 and the Capri 26 paired up and paced each other all day as well. Pops was gamely pursuing but just outmatched by the race ready boats. Tranquillity rounded and set in first after dodging what was the first of many powerboats and fishermen that seemed to enjoy making the soloists work harder than they already were. On the downwind leg, Lakota's reacher chute, which might have been the right choice with gusty strong wind, was clearly overmatched by T-base's big runner and while the change didn't take long, it gave the leader a very comfortable gain. Still, Lakota moved over to the hwy 20 shore and made the first of numerous charges that kept Bob Robinson honest and on defense. Regardless, Tranquillity was never less than 20 boat lengths ahead from then to near the finish. She rounded at Rattlesnake and both boats worked the Hwy 20 shore with diminishing breezes. Lakota crossed close to the downwind boats as they ran the 20 shore as well, their downwind rounding *very close* together. Somewhere around Glenhaven, the winds started to change for the worse and Lakota was even starting to break down the boat while under way as the results looked inevitable, when she caught a big lift to just below the layline. Tranquillity still needed to maneuver to get to the finish; and while well out in the Narrows, had lighter air.

To everyone's surprise, Lakota managed to make the finish tight and in her skipper's excitement (and just a bit of hubris) tried to finish on port tack and fouled Tranquillity on starboard just at the port finish buoy. As the wind was almost dead, Lakota DQ'd rather than try to take a turn and attempt the line again. Bob was a good sport and also completed the course for a well-earned victory. While there were still boats on the course, the race committee elected to end the race as the wind shut down completely and the racers and support crews adjourned to the hut to gnosh on some great vittles from Val Adase and Arlene Westman.

Winner - Tranquillity Base / Bob Robinson

Next race is the Oct Buoys, 10/14. These are the last buoy series races.

There are long races on October 28-The Commodore's Cup, & our Turkey Race in Nov 18.

Come see our booth at the Kelseyville Pear Festival Sat, Sept 30.

Brad King

Vice Commodore