

Howdy Sailors;

The last race of the season gave us light but fairly consistent winds in the 3 to 6mph range and the sky was a beautiful clear blue with scattered clouds and a comfortable 60 degrees or so. Six boats carrying 15 sailors showed up at the start line with 4 Capris and 2 open fleet boats to contest the honor of having their name on our perpetual trophy. *Santé* with Jim Westman at the helm and *Showtime* helmed by Julie Richardson in the open fleet started this pursuit race off, crossing the start line together. Six minutes later the Capris hit the start line with TJs *Seahawk* edging across slightly down the start line but just in front of *Tranquility Base* playing for a pin start. Breathing down their transom was Brad King on *Lakota* and on their transom *Blew By You* with long time bay area sailing champion Jim Carlsen and past commodore Gary Jolley aboard.

The light winds favored the Capris at half the tonnage or less of the open fleet and these greyhounds were quickly in the hunt with *Tranquility* rounding KT first. The north to northwest winds on this leg lifted many boats straight to the mark on the first tack. *Lakota* came roaring around next setting their reaching spinnaker to chase down *T Base* and their running spinnaker. Now the procession was underway with *Santé* beating *Showtime* to this rounding but also two more Capris slipping through inside within inches of the open fleet boats. *Santé* with Jim at the helm and Mike Green/Chet Britz crewing had a long downwind fight on their hands trying to hold off Don Ford/Julie Richardson/Bruce Rogerson crewing *Showtime*. The turkey trot was in full swing now with kites in full display on six boats spread across the narrows from one side to the other.

*Lakota* was now pulling almost even with *T Base* as Buckingham Point and the start/finish line came into play. A double whammy now hit *Lakota*, the following winds backing further behind the fleet to the North charging up the downwind kite on *T Base* as the reaching kite on *Lakota* started to struggle. The start/finish line was restricted and as they had nowhere to go from their angle, they had to go through it and take a penalty turn. This was a crucial moment in the race for first and second. After the race, former race director Brad gave some input to the new director on how to use two buoys to set the course up more effectively out in the middle of the lake instead of using the shoal marker which leaves no room to round on one side. Slightly building winds from behind were now compressing the following boats up to the front as the leaders struggled to keep their lead. This compression kept up off and on all the way to the lee rounding at Paradise Cove. It was a beautiful sight to see all the kites in full display against the clear blue skies. This procession continued to Paradise Cove with all boats working hard to maximize what light breezes there were. The biggest struggle was clearly on *Blew by You* as their hull was not clean, but covered with a mossy gel. Working very hard to get any speed, (this boat may be the fastest of all the Capris), they slowly started to reel some of the lost distance back in. Meanwhile the two open fleet boats settled into a tough duel with *Showtime* now getting some speed up and slowly starting to reel *Santé* in.

The last leg was now coming into play and a smooth drop of the kites was needed by all to maintain position. *T Base* rounded and dropped first with a slight hitch getting their jib sheets to run free, this opened the door enough to let *Lakota* back into the hunt rounding much closer to the buoy for this upwind leg. *Val* went to work quickly and slowly started working her way back up to a better angle. The race was on and *Lakota* was not going to give an inch without a fight. A determined Tom Malley in the pit, cutting and setting in his first full double handed race, showed off the skills he has learned racing on the season champion boat with veteran racer Brad King. The lee rounding was in full swing now as all boats quickly dropped their kites and *Showtime* moving into a commanding position over *Santé* due to a struggle getting their kite down. Three to four tacks latter *T Base* crossed the line in front of a charging *Lakota* fighting to hold off a late charge by *Seahawk* with Paul Samberg, TJ and Corrina

who had attempted a flyer across the lake to move up a position. *Blew By You* had been slowly working back into the race and on a longer course would have probably made up a place or two. The mossy bottom was simply too much in the one design racing though and they had hung in there all day doing the best they could. The big heavy boats struggled in this light breeze most of the day and did what they could but it was not their day either. *Showtime* with Julie helming held off *Santé* and that was it!

The after race pot luck was now on and it was reminiscent of past years with plenty of food, including turkey from Arlene Westman, a crock pot of warm food and assorted appetizers from Val and also Suzy Britz along with other contributions made for quite a feast. This turkey dinner and socializing went on till dark and then some. The visiting after the racing was a great success and enjoyed by all. There were close to 20 members at the pot luck and the club house that past commodore Gary Jolley pushed forward so hard during his tenure was welcomed in the cooling late afternoon/evening temperatures!! It was a wonderful get together and a great way to end our official racing season. It is always a great opportunity to keep up with club members that we do not see a lot and we intend to keep these pot lucks going after the long races next season.