

Howdy Sailors;

This year there was no shortage of wind and it was from every direction! That means we had lots of fun and lots of challenges and were completely worn out after. In other words, it was a very good K Cup. There were 24 boats with about 3 to 4 sailors on each boat for a crowd of about 100 sailors. The dark clouds with a few light showers, sunshine and wind whipped waves made for one of the most scenic Cup races we have had. Wind speed fluctuated constantly from 6 or 8 to 11 or 12 with gusts in the high teens and occasional holes with no wind for 10 or 30 seconds. With these conditions, we were all on our toes and wide awake.

The 3 starts went off smoothly for all fleets and all were off and in very tricky conditions with numerous tacks for all. Many of the Wabbits were soon hopping into the lead and setting the pace with the Capris close on their tails in the full cup. *In the Red* with Jim Carlsen, was setting the pace for the Capris and putting their stamp on this race from the first leg on while Wabbits were dueling for first on the course. As the full cup was blasting towards Rattlesnake Island the half Cuppers were to be seen rounding Windmill Island and Clear Lake was soon looking like SF Bay on the weekend with sailboats in seemingly every direction. At the front of the half Cup, *Santé* with Jim Westman and Chet Britz's *Lil Bit* were trying to keep in touch with Doug & Kitty Jones in their beautifully restored Capri, *Honey Bee*. The Santana 20, *Presto*, with new member Duane Harper at the helm, his brother, and Paul Samberg crewing were setting a blistering pace at the front and would hold this position for much of the race before *Honey Bee* moved by and was first to finish in this division. This division of white sails only was filled out by two dueling MacGregors, sailing a race within a race and longtime K Cup racer Larry Kubo on his Santana 525, *Sunshine* and new entry *Mellow* a Ranger 20 owned by Alan Janecke. At the finish line Westman on *Santé* corrected out to first with Britz on *Lil Bit* a few minutes back.

The half cup division with spinnakers was won by Don Ford's *Showtime*, second going to *Skipjack II*, belonging to Rick Geertsema and John Rinehart's *Yakkity Yak* finishing the podium. Flying a kite today was quite a challenge and we would have had many more up if the winds were a little less wild. Just to be out sailing with white sails was quite an achievement and a thrilling race in its own right! Adding a

kite to this wind today had those boats rocking and rolling to a wild rhythm.

This wild rhythm was driving the full cup boats down the lake with speed into the high 7s at times. *Blew by You* driven by Barry Danieli, and crewed by Bill McDougal and Gus, along with Brad King's *Lakota* and Val Adase, driving *Tranquillity*, were desperately trying to hold onto *In the Red*. Jimmy and Carlsen finally broke free going to mark 5 and were now chasing down the Wabbits. *Tranquillity* had a poor set at mark 7 and now *Lakota* and *Blue* were dueling for second in the Capri 25s and the final podium spot. Teresa Mayorga at the helm of *Lakota* held off a charging *Blue* at the line. Erik Menzel on *Bad Hare Day* had scampered far enough into the lead to have a secure win of first to finish and first overall. Congratulations Erik!! The Wabbits did not have an easy day of it and Erik showed tremendous skill to pilot this narrow hull in these conditions. No one had an easy day of it and Dennis Oliver got a little dip in the lake off of *Always Saturday*, but he held on and only went in up to his neck! John Coovert and Cecil Pearson pulled him back aboard and they continued on from their second leg excitement to finish the race. Phil Lovett's *Scorch*, an Olsen 30, got to the start late but sailed the entire race and had a good time even without a finishing time. Don Hare and his Catalina 22 from the Gold Country YC moved into 6th under corrected time from his position at the back of the fleet to edge *Tranquillity* by a few seconds. One Wabbit had to retire after turning over and dousing their crew and two more hung in too finish with Tim Russell on *Weckless*, second in this fleet and Colin Moore on *Kwazy* in third.

The Corsair Tri, *Wings*, belonging to Bill & Tammy Cook, were hitting speeds of 13 to 14 knots and having a delightful day on the lake. This tri was the only entry and a thrilling sight to see powering around in these winds!

Many, many club members and friends have put in a lot of time to make this event happen. We send a big thank you to all involved, on and off boats. The committee boat was staffed by club members, Suzy Britz, Anita, Paul Richardson, Tama and TJ, starting and recording the finishes. Gary Jolley and crew from the Coast Guard Aux, provided support on the lake and provided a top-notch BBQ ashore. Peggy King, Susan Parker and friends took many pictures on the chase boat to record this wild day and they had quite a ride themselves. Tony Braitto and

crew spruced up Braitto's so we looked our best. Chet Britz provided the master list and kept an eye on all aspects of the K Cup to keep everything moving forward. Our Prescribed Race Officer, (PRO), was Jim Carlsen. We have about a dozen sponsors listed on our web site. These businesses and people support sailing here at Clear Lake. Please consider them for your future and other business needs. The Clearlake Vet Clinic was our major sponsor again this year, helping us keep this event in the black. This is two years in a row for them and we deeply appreciate it. Nate and Brie Duff who own the clinic were not able to attend the K Cup as she went into labor and delivered a new sailor about 4:45 Sunday. Yes, nature threw a little bit of everything at us this year!!

Bob R