

55TH ANNUAL GOLDEN GATE BULLSHIP RACE SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2008

Cool, overcast, fresh northwesterly breeze, sloppy water. All finishers cleared the finish line in a ten-minute period, the last at about 66 minutes after the start.

Twenty-nine Toros entered. Twenty-two appeared at the start, and twenty-one finished. The fleet was well guarded by the many Cowship escorts. A Coast Guard cutter anchored in the race course also promised assistance if needed.

Most of the Toros sailed along the Marin shoreline and headed straight for the San Francisco shore, frustrating the 3-knot ebb and using the countercurrent on the San Francisco shore to good effect. The winners were in this group. Others headed in the general direction of Fort Mason.

Special awards: 2007 Founders Award winner Arnie Quan received a keeper trophy. John Fraser won the 2008 Founders Award. Then Cowship award went to RYC for years of generous cooperation with ABRA. The El Viejo Award, for oldest skipper to finish, went again to Duncan Carter. The Howard Robinson Trophy, for first LMSC skipper to finish, went again to Dennis Silva. Former regatta winner Chris Straub “won” the tailender award for 10th place. The first maiden voyager trophy was unclaimed – the lone maiden voyager failed to finish. Vickie Gilmour again won the trophy for first woman skipper to finish. Eric Beckman won the award for first woody (of three) to finish. Skip Shapiro won the Clydesdale trophy for first skipper over 200 lbs. to finish.

Art Lange was first to finish. Hill Blackett was second. Three-time winner Dennis Silva was third. Complete results follow.

Place	Sail No.	Skipper
1	11783	Art Lange HPSC
2	11856	Hill Blackett RYC
3	11800	Dennis Silva LMSC
4	11649	Fred Paxton RYC
5	11714	Vickie Gilmour LMSC
6	11515	Nick Nash RYC
7	11500	Gordon Nash RYC
8	11827	Paul Tara SCYC
9	11657	John Liebenberg RYC
10	11760	Chris Straub RYC
11	11767	Skip Shapiro RYC
12	11815	John Pacholski HPSC
13	11868	Paul Zander HPSC
14	11888	Eric Beckman RYC
15	11517	Steve Jones RYC

Place	Sail No.	Skipper
16	11534	John Hege LMSC
17	11391	Bob Hrubes LMSC
18	237	Ron Romaine
19	3899	Duncan Carter LMSC
20	99991	Paul Flowerman
21	1690	Ben Ballard SFYC
22	9999	Richard Paulsen
DNF	11371	Ed Patterson HPSC
DNS	10391	Frank Healy LMSC
DNS	11401	Pete Blasberg FYC
DNS	11505	Chris Nash RYC
DNS	11666	John Amen RYC
DNS	1746	Bruce Bradfute RYC
DNS	71500	Bernd Mews IYC

Among the many people assisting ABRA were onshore volunteers Gary Hartsock, Peggy Darnall, and Mike Carter who handled checkin and finishes. Offshore, John Amen and Russ Shroff aboard *Infinity*, Gary Gephard’s starting line boat.