

2009 Flight of the Bulls is this coming Saturday, May 9th
This will be the 38th annual Bob McKibben memorial
(Annually held the day before Mother's day)

Boat Park Foster City CA. Foster City Blvd/ One Bounty Dr., Foster City, CA, 94404

On site registration

Skippers meeting 1030

Start 1100

The race will be held RAIN OR SHINE. Only electrical storms, major thunder storms, and sustained winds over 20 MPH at the start of the race will cancel the race.

Trophies, tee shirts, and lunch at the completion of the race for all competitors.

THE QUESTION IS, Are you ready for the challenge? The flight of the Bulls is the third race in the Senior El Toro Series and is easily the most demanding and challenging of the entire Sr. Series. Sr's will be scored separately for the '09 series, however, this is an OPEN division race for El Toro's and advances Jr's are encouraged to sail along with the Sr's. Jr's and Sr's will be scored as finished as one fleet for trophies.

HOWEVER, this is NOT A BEGINNERS RACE! To successfully finish this race, you must be capable of repeated short tacking in light AND heavy wind, possess the ability to read a variety of wind current signs, be capable of quickly reacting to rapidly changing wind conditions, and have the stamina for a long race.

The race is for class legal El Toro's only

All El Toro's must conform to class rules.

A dedicated attached 15' painter is required.

The mast must be secured to the hull with means other than running rigging.

PFD's are required while on the water.

720 for rule infractions

360 for marks

There is no formal charge for the race

However, donations from \$10 to \$20 is appreciated to defray costs

Race costs

\$50 for annual Foster City application

\$50 for insurance rider per Foster City regulations

(Thank you El Toro association and Steve Lowry for your assistance to obtain this for us)

Safety boat costs

Tee Shirts

Food

Trophy materials

THE FLIGHT OF THE BULLS AND “NORMAL” SAILING CONDITONS

The history of the race has repeatedly presented challenging conditions ranging from slight drifting air to sudden blasting gusts of wind coming from between buildings, all during the same race. Temperatures ranged from blazing hot and dehydration to rain and high winds. Some race days have drifted for a majority of the race to finish in a gale, while some started in a stiff breeze with wind building stronger as the race progressed.

The only constant has been the challenge of sailing under 4 different bridges with swirling zephyrs of wind coming at 360 degree shifts around the columns and from directly above. There is an open water lagoon that may have major wind shifts. There are channels that mandate precise multiple short tacking and concentration on choosing the right wind shifts. There are long runs directly down wind in funnels of wind. There are patches of dead calm with zephyrs of air swirling behind tall condos, buildings, and trees. Wind can be directly down, zephyrs floating through, to sudden shifts around the ends of the buildings. There are buildings on both sides of channels that can stop the wind completely, direct the air up, or funnel air currents directly between them. The physical conditions make zephyrs a norm.

Add to this, that the length of the race normally exceeds 2 hours in length making a skipper continue to concentrate for the entire race as they become fatigued. From the front to back of the fleet there are ample opportunities to pass and to be passed due to favorable wind and careful tactical opportunities. Positions have been gained and lost in the last portions of the race. Many times the winner was decided by less than a boat length with multiple changes in the lead throughout the race as due to the complexity of the conditions.

The BULLSHIP can be sailed with knowledge of sear currents, tides, and general sailing skills. The Corkscrew requires sailing in currents, general sailing skill but has minimal opportunity to pass. This race taxes your knowledge of wind currents, overall sailing ability, and stamina. This race is NOT A RACE FOR BEGINNERS, NOVICES, and OR THE FAINT OF HEART.

Are you ready for the challenge?

Saturday May 9th, 2009 (annually the day before Mother's day!)