

# 2010 Flight of the Bulls

## 5/8/10

1.	Art Lange	11783
2.	Gordie Nash	11500
3.	John Pacholski	11815
4.	Chris Straub	11760
5.	Denis Silva	11800
6.	Skip Shapiro	11767
7.	Greg Morrill	11770
8.	Paul Zander	11868
9.	Bruce Bradfute	11746
10.	Dave Groechel	10324
11.	Butch Michel	11858
12.	Vickie Gilmore	11714
13.	Pete Blasberg	11401

The 39th annual Foster City Flight of the Bulls was a tremendous success!

13 El Toro's started the race with a forecasted blustering and building 15+ MPH expected winds. The day turned out to be a perfect day for El Toro's; sunny, warm, with around 10 MHP wind the norm.

Art Lange showed why he has won the past 5 years with a spectacular race. Gordie Nash took the start and was first to the bridge and up to the first mark with John Pacholski pressing him hard. John was able to pass to have the lead until we were returning to the starting area where Gordie was able to pass him on a wind shift. Art Lange was showing his tacking strength and came from near the rear of the fleet, passing most everyone to be 3rd place at the second mark in the lagoon.

With fluctuating winds, zephyrs, and strong gusts coming from between buildings, Art was able to pass John on the race to the third mark. Gordie was first, with Art 2 and John 3 at the back leg and 3rd mark. Greg Morrill was able pass a few to be 4th at the second mark and hold on to 4th to the 3rd mark. This order was soon to change with Dennis Silva, Chris Straub, and Skip Shapiro passing Greg as we headed back again to the lagoon and a long upwind leg. "I've been waiting for the moment all day" says Dennis as Chris, Dennis, and Skip sail past Greg.

At the front, Art was finally able to gain a tack at the edge on Gordie, to take the lead on this final up wind leg. Art was able to cover Gordie with John P. pressing them hard up the long upwind leg home. Chris, Dennis, and Skip, fought in zephyrs and gusting winds up this long upwind leg, battling each other to settle out for their positions leaving Greg in their wakes. Vickie found Mother Earth and was aided by Butch Michel to again be able to get back into the sailing actions and chase after Paul Zander, Bruce Bradfute, and Dave Groechel.

With everyone's energy levels drained after this long battle and nearly 3 hours of sailing, Art was able to finish in 2 hrs 26 min with Gordie 2 min behind then came John P 1 min later. Chris, Dennis, and Skip were in sight and all finished within 3 min of each other. 87 year old Pete Blasberg was in the battle to the first mark and chose to be first to one of the traditional El Toro beer's that our Race Committee Mary and Shelley Morrill had on ice at the start/finish line.

The entire fleet was finished in 2 hrs 50 min of sailing. The NOR and explanation of this race again proved that this is not a race for the faint of heart or beginners. A lunch, awards, and regatta tee shirts ended the day with a resounding good time for everyone. As has happened often in other Flight of the Bull's races, the lead and positions in the fleet changed multiple times during the event showing that this race "Isn't over till it's over!"

All of us were grateful to Admiral John Fraser, his first mate John Gilmore, and guard dog Nemo who shepherded as our stalwart cowship for the event.

Greg Morrill