

Flight of the Bulls 5/8/10

RESULTS:

- 1 Art Lange 11783
- 2 Gordie Nash 11500
- 3 John Pacholski 11815
- 4 Chris Straub 11760
- 5 Dennis 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 winds expected. The day turned out to be an El Toro perfect day; sunny, warm, 5-15 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 upwind. Art Lange was showing his tacking strength and came from near the rear of the fleet, passing everyone to 3rd place at the lagoon and the second mark. Fluctuating winds, zephyrs, and strong winds from between buildings and Art was able to pass John for Gordie 1, 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 Ship sail past Greg.

At the front, Art was finally able to gain an edge tack on Gordie to take the lead on this final up wind leg. Art was able to cover Gordie to the end. John P was pressing them hard up the long upwind leg home. Chris, Dennis, and Skip, fought a zephyrs and gusting on 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. With everyone's energy levels draining on this long battle after several hours of sailing, Art was able to finish in 2 hrs 26 min with Gordie 2 min behind then came John 1 min later with Chris, Dennis, and Skip all finishing 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's beer's that our Race Committee Mary and Shelley Morrill had on ice at the start/finish line.

The entire fleet was finished in just over 2 hrs 45 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, award, and tee Shirts ended the day with a resounding good time for everyone.

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

Greg Morrill