

## Pinecrest El Toro Worlds August 7 & 8, 2010

The NOR for the El Toro Worlds at Pinecrest Lake have just been posted on the ETIYRA website. Sailing at Pinecrest is special every day, but when we flatlanders join the mountain folks for the Worlds it's even better. The lake is pristine. Surrounded by pine trees with a backdrop of granite peaks, it's the prettiest venue on the Toro racing schedule. You will likely see Osprey diving for fish as you race along. Winds are VERY interesting and range from very light to 15 knot puffs to keep you on your toes. This is more than just a Toro race, it's a chunk of Toro folklore. The local yacht club, the SOB's (Still On the Beach), have been racing every day at 2pm from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to Labor Day for many, many years. The marks are spread around the lake and named by features on the lake (stump, cove, tower.) Trust me the racing is quite competitive but the locals set the rules and they are delightfully looser than the official "Racing Rules." Brushing marks is almost encouraged to enhance competition. If you accidentally bump someone, a quick courtesy apology is all that's required. No circles need be turned in either case. Two races are schedule for Saturday and one for Sunday. After the racing Saturday there's a pot luck down near the boats for everyone to visit and swap stories on the day of racing. I understand that the trophies for this year's 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> finishers will be memorable.

The event is held lakeside at the end of the footpath that leads down to the lake from the intersection of Lakeshore Drive and Sugarpine Road. Sign-up is around 11am on Saturday, skippers meeting is at noon. There is a modest regatta fee of \$5 to cover trophies with the surplus being donated to race mark maintenance. Parking after 9:30am on the weekend can get tough, so best to arrive early, grab a space and spend some quality time at the lake. As far as required skill level for juniors, I would recommend Advanced and accomplished Intermediate sailors only for the mid-day racing, but there's no reason why beginners could not begin exploring this beautiful lake in their Toro's when the winds are light in the morning and late afternoon. Note that this is a mountain lake so the water is quite chilly. There are no safety boats present for this rather informal regatta – each skipper should be able to right his/her own boat in a capsize.

Camping is available on a first come, first serve basis (no reservations taken) at the Meadowview campground on Dodge Ridge Road about a mile from the lake. I'm told that if you get there Thursday you stand a very good chance of getting a great place to pitch your tent for the weekend. The Pinecrest Lodge and Campground is typically booked solid this time of year, but you might try stopping by on your way into the lake – they often have last minute cancellations on choice rooms and camp sites. Pinecrest is roughly three hours east of the Bay Area on Highway 108.

Hope to see all of you at Pinecrest this year.

Best,  
John P.