

2010 Pinecrest Worlds

Pinecrest treated twenty happy sailors to a weekend of warm, steady winds (OK, OK, for Pinecrest that is) for the 2010 Worlds. The trophies put together by Lynn Hrubes for this year's event were magnificent. Those of us in the hunt on Sunday were thinking we might need trailers to get them home. Thanks for all the talented work Lynn – the trophies are terrific. Thanks also to Joyce Andrews and Mary McHugh for performing race committee duty for us.

Trophies were awarded for the top six finishers along with some special awards. The 6th place trophy went to Walt Andrews proving that slightly older gentlemen rule with 9-5-9 finishes. Dennis Silva proved that Clydesdales are fast (momentum does count) with consistent 7-7-5 finishes earning him 5th place. Pinecrest Lake fan John P. managed to tie with our only Junior this year, Mike P. Mike needed one more race to take out his dad with 4-3-2 finishes, but fortunately there are only three races at the Worlds. Dave Vickland, the man that can make a Toro go very fast and still look remarkably comfortable doing it earned 2nd place with consistent 2-3-2 finishes. Demonstrating his awesome talent at lake sailing, Art Lange pulled off 2-1-1 finishes and is our 2010 Worlds champ. A handsome, customized Pinecrest mugs went to the first woman finisher, Debbie Dount. Debbie is the daughter of long time SOB Dick Dount. Debbie finished in a very respectable 12th place. Our first Junior finisher, Mike P., also went home with a Pinecrest mug to remind him of Pinecrest. As prize for his perseverance during a tough weekend George Morris received a handsome leather clad drinking glass for the beverage of his choice. George snapped off the head on his rudder just after rounding Beach on Friday. He borrowed Mary's rudder for Saturday and proceeded to run aground during the 1st race. The high level of the water was playing tricks on some as we sailed over rocks that are typically above water by August.

We had at least three new faces in the fleet this year. Michelle Gilluly, Gil's granddaughter carried on the Gilluly Toro racing tradition in Banana Split. James Savatone from Santa Cruz showed up with his handsome home made boat. And Ray Torok from Los Altos did an amazing job of getting back in the groove with his Toro and came on strong to finish 7th overall.

Final results:

1st with 4 points – Art Lange
2nd with 8 points – Dave Vickland
3rd tied with 9 points – John Pacholski
4th tied with 9 points – Mike Pacholski
5th with 19 points – Dennis Silva
6th with 22 points – Walt Andrews

Complete results and picture by Joyce Andrews are posted at www.eltoroyra.org under the regattas and pictures tabs

For most of you the following play-by-play of each race is more than you ever want to hear about Worlds racing. I know it's hard to believe, but others of us who shall remain nameless (Fred, John, Art) enjoy rereading about each race and playing it out in our heads as we anxiously wait for next year and another chance to race at Pinecrest. I apologize in advance for any inaccuracies. With all that happens during one Pinecrest race, it's hard to remember all the details. You may report any errors to the protest committee at the SOB Yacht Club for further action. ;-)

Best,
John P.

Race #1 With the absence of our 2009 Worlds champ Fred Paxton, the honor of picking the first course fell to last years 2nd place finisher, Art Lange, who chose Zag-Zag. A fun but tough

course with three beats. Invigorated by the large fleet, John P. managed to squeak out to the lead at Beach. John was visibly distressed when the fleet split wide right behind him on the run to Cove. Art Lange went way right while Dave Vickland went down the middle and Mike P. slightly to the left side of the course. There was slightly more pressure on the right side and at Cove John P. hung on to a slim lead with Art Lange in pursuit. Art and Dave chose wisely and came out to toward the middle of the lake first on the beat back up to Cross, taking the lead and second position respectively. No lead changes down to Stump, back up to Tunnel or back down to North Shore. On the beat to Tower John P. received some personal puffs and slipped back into the lead. Carefully avoiding the wind shadow from the point, John defended his lead on the beat back to the finish line. SOB member Gary Winton showed the results of a lot of practice and roared in with a 5th. Despite the handicap of a borrowed rudder (from Mary) SOB George Morris roared in with 6th place. #2 Art Lange, #3 Dave Vickland, #4 Mike P., #5 Gary Winton, #6 George Morris.

Race #2 Wanting to get ALL of his \$5 of racing John P. chose the course Senility with Beach to starboard added for the first mark. Art Lange pulled out to an early lead on the way to Beach. As Art and Dave Vickland were locked in battle heading straight for Tunnel, John P. annoyingly (I think Dave's words were "if you keep doing stuff like that something bad is going to happen to you") slipped to the right and around them gaining the lead. The fleet was amazingly packed together as the breeze then came up from the back and at times there were five boats abreast heading down to Cove (Dave V., Art L., Jay Copeland, Mike and John P.) John P. barely held off Art Lange at Cove. On the beat to North Shore Art headed higher and faster and with the benefit of a nice port tack lift slipped into the lead. SOB Jay Copeland was completely focused and pushed into 2nd position on the way to North Shore. No lead changes on the beat to Tower. On the way to down to Stump Mike P. showed off some surfing talent and surged to Art's transom. Dave Vickland rounded 3rd after taking a short detour almost over to Cove as he tactically pushed John P. and Jay Copeland away from the mark. First time Worlds participant Ray Torok showed some terrific lake sailing skills and moved up to 5th position for a portion of the beat from Stump to Beach. Shifty light winds made covering difficult on the beat back to Beach. Art headed high and received a nice port tack lift and locked in a comfortable lead. Ha, no such thing as comfortable at Pinecrest. Art sailed into some softness toward Cross, while Dave and Mike P. raced up to him. Art was able to pull things together and defend his lead around Cross and to the finish. Mike P. experienced all of Pinecrest and was unceremoniously Pinecrested approaching the finish. SOB's Jay Copeland and Jim Haire raced their best races of the series and finished with the lead pack in 6th and 8th place respectively. #2 Dave Vickland, #3 Mike P., #4 John P., #5 Walt Andrews, #6 Jay Copeland

Now it came down to final race tactics, Art L. had 3 points, Dave Vickland and John P each had 5 points and Mike P had 7 points. Art's mission was to stay in front of Dave or John, whoever was closer. Art chose Monarch, a long course with long beats and runs for the final contest. Art and Mike P. got great starts in variable and shifty winds. With the winds shifting to the west 3/4 way to Beach, the boats that had gone to the right made out great with a starboard tack approach straight to the mark. Art was 1st to Beach with Mike P. right on his tail followed by Dave Vickland third, then Jay Copeland, Dennis Silva and Jim Haire. This group pulled away from the rest of the pack but compressed at North Shore ejecting Art to 5th position. Going into Stump the leaders Mike P and Dennis Silva violated one of the Seven Most Important Rules of Racing and sailed the wrong course rounding Stump to port. They lost time retracing their steps to a starboard rounding. Art took advantage of the confusion at the mark, swung wide and ducked through an opening only to find himself back in the lead. Art hung on to his lead during a mostly starboard tack beat back up to tunnel creating few passing opportunities followed by Mike P and Dave Vickland with a significant gap to the rest of the fleet. The top three boats stayed in line down to Cove. The wind got shifty with many holes on the beat to Tower. Art's lake sailing skills shined as he focused on playing the shifts and lengthened his lead to 100 yds. Mike P. held off Dave Vickland for 2nd. Dave Vickland crossed #3. John P #4, #5 Dennis Silva, #6 Butch Michel and #7 Ray Torok.

See you all next year at Pinecrest.