

2017 FLIGHT OF THE BULLS
47th annual Bob McKibben Memorial
NOTICE OF RACE

Date: Saturday, May 13th, 2017 (held annually the day before Mother's day)

Location: Boat/Dog Park Foster City, CA. Corner of Foster City Blvd and Bounty Dr., Foster City, CA, 94404

On site registration: 10:00am

Skippers meeting: 10:30am

Start: 11:00am

After race barbeque: Immediately after trophy ceremony at the home of Kurt and Kelly Lahr, 130 Port Royal Ave in Foster City

The race will be held RAIN OR SHINE. Only electrical or thunder storms or sustained winds over 20 MPH at the start of the race will cancel the race. Awards and snack pot luck immediately after last competitor finishes.

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 can be the most demanding and challenging of the entire Senior Series. Seniors will be scored separately for the 2017 series; however, this is an OPEN division race for El Toros and advanced Juniors are encouraged to sail along with the Seniors. Juniors and Seniors will be scored as one fleet for trophies.

Please Note - 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 (up to three hours) race.

- The race is for class legal El Toros only and must conform to all class rules.
- A dedicated attached 15 foot painter is required.
- The mast must be secured to the hull by means other than running rigging (you must have a mast tie down of some sort.)
- PFDs are required while on the water.
- 360 rule for infractions (one tack, one gibe)
- 360 rule for marks (one tack, one gibe)

There is no charge for the event. However, donations of \$20 for senior racers would be appreciated to help offset Foster City application and power boat permit costs.

THE FLIGHT OF THE BULLS SAILING CONDITIONS

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. (And a few years have been delightfully comfortable days with four to five knots of breeze all day, but that's not what this memo is about is it ☺) 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 3 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 because of technical challenge of the course and changing 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?

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Be there!