

Soling Article

The 2009 PCYA Jesse L. Carr Regatta

The San Diego Soling Fleet here at MBYC hosted a regional regatta over Memorial Day Weekend. For the second year in a row, we hosted the Pacific Coast Yachting Association's Jesse L. Carr Regatta. This regatta is open to up to two crews from each of its four regional areas by way of its member associations. In this case, that was the Pacific International Yachting Association, the Yacht Racing Union of Southern California, the Southern California Yachting Association and the San Diego Yachting Association. Skippers are required to be members of yacht clubs belonging to these associations and are also required to be at least fifty years old! Crews are required to be at least 40 years old. The entry fee, paid by the associations, was \$275. This last bit gave our fleet a chance to have some fun; one boat's entry bought the beer, a second purchased the food and the others was spent on commemorative shirts. The fact that Katie Ham had other delights also under way made it all the better.

Competitors came from Orca's Island Yacht Club, Orcas being one of the San Juan Islands north of Seattle (Ian Wareham and crew), Balboa Yacht Club in Newport Beach (Bill Marting), Alamitos Bay Yacht Club in Long Beach (Marting's crew) along with a team from Southwestern Yacht Club (Tim Hanke, Tim Batcher and Patti Rague), not to mention our very own from MBYC (John Walton, Steve Brownsea and David Hochart who split time with Heather Brownsea). OK, there were only four boats racing, but the competition was high. Grant Williams and ten others volunteered for race committee and Jane Engleman pulled a few more together for protest committee. Many thanks to all of them.

It was 8 fleet races over 2 days. The racing was round robin with each crew in each boat twice. The sailing conditions were 'interesting'. The weather was warm, but the wind was both uncharacteristically light and originating from an abnormally southerly direction. The Race Committee, which the competitors agreed performed admirably, reported wind shifts in the range of 45°, and the expected pressure from the west never materialized. The value of clear air was thereby accentuated; a lead on the first beat rarely resulted in a subsequent loss of position. Racing was generally close with some high entropy mark roundings.

Our fleet supplied the boats (Blozan, Brownsea, Minton, and Walton) along with the defending crew. There was a Request for Redress regarding the last race made by Tim Hanke, who felt that the spare spinnaker we provided was too tired to be competitive. After calling in Doc Caroe from home, after physically examining the offending spinnaker and another on the grass, after listening to at least three witnesses, and after what seemed like hours, Jane's protest committee denied the request. It might have changed the third and fourth regatta results. Sadly, the awards presentation was much delayed and the third place team had already left for home. Still, process was upheld and the club once again acted like it cared.

The perpetual trophy, which has been at MBYC for the last year, now travels up to the Pacific Northwest. Both crew and skipper are etched onto the large bowl shaped trophy mount. (Interestingly, the trophy actually comes with toasting cups as though the trophy was envisioned to hold celebratory liquids. Don't know who had that idea.) Ian and his crew will now be added to an illustrious list not only including our own defenders, but also Soling Gold Medalist Robbie Haines and Soling Bronze Medalist Jeff Madrigali. The second place team received a special trophy. This award known to the Soling Class in the United States as 'the Alien', is a smallish green fellow who has been known to appear, as if by Star Trek transporter, at events as disparate as the Pacific Coast Championships, the Soling World Championships, the Soling United States Championships and others. Some say that when Wareham and Walton compete with each other 'the Alien' comes to console the loser, and that when its not performing those duties it resides in a moldy, pink Dodge van.

We are pleased to report that PCYA has again asked us to host an event for them next year, thought that may or may not be the Carr Regatta. They like the way we roll. We have accepted and look forward to next Memorial Day Weekend.