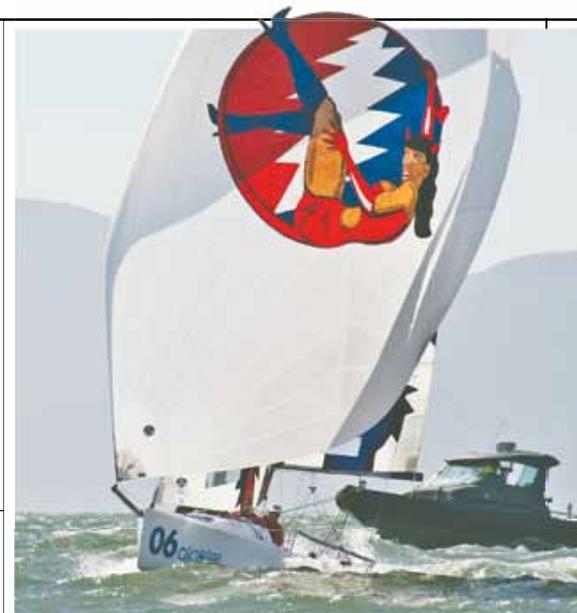


THE RACING

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ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE LATITUDE / CHRIS EXCEPT AS NOTED



This page: the Alcatel J/70 Worlds on a windy Thursday afternoon. Clockwise from top left: One of five starts that day; Bay Area fleet captain Justin Kromelow's 'Loose Lucy' had the best sail graphics; running through the Berkeley Circle washing machine; Claudia Rossi, of 'Petite Terrible', won an Alcatel tablet for top female helm (she finished the series in fifth place).

163; 10) **Heartbreaker**, Robert Hughes, USA, 210. (68 boats)

CORINTHIAN — 1) **USA32**, Shawn Bennett, USA, 225; 2) **Team RAF Benevole**, Simon Ling, GBR, 242; 3) **3 Big Dogs**, Pat Toole, USA, 278. (23 boats)

Full results at www.stfyc.com/j70worlds2016

Picture-Perfect Sportboat Regatta

In a reversal of last year's Sportboat Invitational hosted by Richmond YC, when the Open 5.70s had their North Americans, this year it was the Ultimate 20's chance to attract its best sailors to race on San Francisco Bay. But just like last year, the weather turned up to offer blue skies, warm temperatures, and winds of 5-15 knots during the three-day regatta on October 7-9. As an added touch, the Blue Angels made for a dramatic backdrop to the flying spinners.

RYC's PRO, Del Olsen, set windward/leeward courses in the Southampton Shoal and Olympic Circle areas for the U20s, the 5.70 fleet, and a two-boat PHRF division. The light winds and flat water on the first two days gave way to

a westerly breeze on Sunday that kept most of the fleet planing on the downwind legs.

For the U20 North Americans, 13 boats from as far away as Denver and upper Idaho sailed the regatta. Chris Chambers of the Sandpoint Sailing Association in Idaho won the eight-race series, but not without a battle from previous North American champion, Mark Allen of Great Salt Lake YC. Third went to a national champion in the Santana 22, Bob Comstock of Santa Cruz YC. Phil Kanegsberg of Tahoe YC took home the fourth-place trophy.

In the five-race series for the 5.70s, Ben and CJ Anderson, based at Brickyard Cove Marina, scored three bullets to lead the fleet, followed by Marc Finot and, in third, Andrew Rist, both from Sequoia YC. The Andersons edged out the Finot team by just two points.

In the mismatch of the regatta, Steve Cameron in his 19-ft Rondar K6 challenged Ian Chamberlain in his Antrim 27. While both were guaranteed trophies for the day, Ian earned five bullets for first place. The weather and sailing con-

ditions were too good for either of them to miss the opportunity to be on the water.

— mike josselyn

ULTIMATE 20 NA, RYC, 10/7-9 (8r, 1t)

1) **Black Sheep**, Chris Chambers, Sandpoint Sailing Assn., 13 points; 2) **Junta**, Mark Allen, Great Salt Lake YC, 21; 3) **Ultimate Antics**, Bob Comstock, SCYC/FYC, 26. (13 boats)

RYC SPORTBOAT REGATTA, 10/8-9 (5r, 1t)

OPEN 5.70 — 1) **Boaty**, Ben & CJ Anderson, 9 points; 2) **Frolic**, Marc Finot, 11; 3) **Bigair**, Andrew Rist, 17. (6 boats)

PHRF — 1) **Abacadabra**, Antrim 27, Ian Chamberlain, 5 points; 2) **6 Pac**, Rondar K6, Steve Cameron, 10. (2 boats)

Full results at www.richmondyc.org

Etchells North Americans

Last year's Etchells North American champion, Steve Benjamin, representing Seawanhaka Corinthian YC in Connecticut, fueled *Terrapin* over the line to claim the 2016 championship. Michael Menninger, Victor Diaz and Ian Liberty were the crew. Hosted by SFYC and staged in the waters from Southampton Shoal to just off the Berkeley shoreline, this three-day eight-race competition attracted top talent from around the US and New Zealand on October 4-8.

Terrapin earned a series score of



LATTITUDE / CHRIS



SOPHIE WONG



THIS ROW: RICHMOND YC

2-1-4-4-6-11/zfp-2-1 for a total of 20. Members of the crew count other recent wins, including runner-up at the 2016 Etchells Worlds for the second year in a row.

Also competing in shifting wind conditions, from a low of 4 knots through 10+ over the course of the three days, was the local boat *Lifted*, which placed second with Jim Cunningham, Jeff Madrigali, Mark Ivey and Bryn Bachman aboard. In a close third out of 18 boats were the New York-based Ben Kinney and Senet Bischoff on their boat *KGB*; Clay Bischoff was the third crewmember.

"The folks at the back of the pack are pretty good," observed the race chair for SFYC, Steve Fentress, "and the folks at the front of the pack are really good. The North Americans had Olympic medalists, America's Cup veterans, past Etchells NA champions, past Etchells world champions, several that have won world championships in other classes, and many others who have competed in Etchells world championships and finished in the top 10."

Etchells Fleet 12 and SFYC will return to the spotlight when they host the Etchells Worlds on September 22-30, 2017. The 2016 Worlds, recently held in Cowes, UK, drew 58 boats to the start

This page: RYC Sportboat Regatta. Clockwise from top left: The new Ultimate 20 North American champs Chris Chambers, Laura Bolin and (not shown) Brian Tyrell of 'Black Sheep' trailered to Richmond from Idaho. PRO Del Olsen records an Ultimate 20 start, with the Denver-based #19 'Juiced!' the leeward boat; the Santa Cruz-based 'Ultimate Antics' snags the offset mark; 'Wasaabi' and 'UAgain!' in tight quarters on the Southampton Shoals racecourse.

line. "The last time the Worlds were held on San Francisco Bay, there were over 70 competitors," said Fentress. "We are preparing for up to 80 competitors in 2017."

Fentress explained why San Francisco Bay was selected as host for the Worlds. "In late September and early October, Mother Nature can present you with light air as it did for the North Americans this year, heavy air as it did a week earlier for the J/70 Worlds, or a mixture of the two. The race venue has passing lanes on both sides, dampening any local knowledge bias, and it is in a world-class city people travel the globe to visit. Next year's champion will likely be skillful across multiple conditions."

The US counts nearly 1,000 of the 30.5-ft one-design boats designed in 1966 by Skip Etchells.

See www.etchellsna.com.

— martha blanchfield

ETCHELLS NA, SFYC, 10/4-8 (8r, 1t)

1) **Terrapin**, Steve Benjamin, Seawanhaka Corinthian YC, 20 points; 2) **Lifted**, Jim Cun-

ningham, SFYC/NYYC, 24; 3) **KGB**, Ben Kinney, NYYC, 26 4) **La Tormenta**, Shannon W. Bush, Texas Corinthian YC/NYYC, 30. (18 boats)

Full results at www.sfyc.org

Shenanigans Defends National Title

San Francisco Bay was looking wet on October 14-16 for the Express 27 Nationals hosted by Berkeley YC. Despite the weather, the fleet and the race committee were committed to get the full schedule of seven races off for what would prove to be a tight battle, the podium decided only in the final race.

The wind picked up just before the first warning and the fleet shifted down to their #3 jibs. *Motorcycle Irene* led from the start. At the leeward mark, *Motorcycle* was still ahead, with *Shenanigans* in second. "All the boats fought hard upwind in dying breeze," said *Motorcycle's* co-owner, Zach Anderson.

In the second race, *Shenanigans* was forced to take several sterns to clear out of bad air. "It seemed like it was coming in from the color of the water so we committed to going hard right and it ended