

Water Fronts for April 14

The pundit who said that "watching sailboat racing is like watching grass grow" should have seen Saturday's regatta hosted by Ventura Yacht Club. Races don't get more tighter or exciting.

After four races, 12 miles and more than four hours, Commotion skippered by Dave Witham, won the J-24 class by just four seconds. It doesn't get any closer than that.

Witham had a record of 1-3-1-2.

The PHRF spinnaker class was won by Brian Kerr in his J-92 with a record of 2-1-2-1. Joe Joines won the non-spinnaker class in his Moore 24, Moore Fun with a 1-1-1 record.

Now back to Commotion and how she won by just four seconds. After taking advantage of more favorable conditions on the left side of the course while Jaded and Tortoise battled it out on the right side, Commotion won the opening race, with Tortoise second and Jaded third. In the second race, Commotion was back in fifth place midway through the race but battled back for third behind Jaded and Tortoise.

After two races, Commotion, Jaded and Tortoise were tied, with the other three J-24s well behind.

In the third race, Tortoise and Jaded again were battling it out for first on the second beat to windward with Commotion well behind. Commotion took a flyer to the right and caught a favorable wind shift, winning the race by just 1 second over Tortoise and 6 seconds over Jaded.

The final race was sailed in very choppy seas and high winds. Jaded took control early, with Commotion and Tortoise overlapped at the weather mark. A furious down wind battle was won by Commotion, as she crossed the finish line just 3 seconds ahead of Tortoise for a second place finish and the regatta victory.

Things were also pretty interesting in the PHRF spinnaker Class. Mike Hopper's J-22, Majic Dragon, won the opening race by just 12 seconds over Double Down. In the second race Double Down won easily because Majic Dragon failed to finish the course. Then Majic Dragon won again in the third race and Double Down took the fourth race by just 44 seconds.

The regatta was the third event in the J-24 Fleet 145 Championship Series. Jaded, skippered by Deke Klatt, leads the series after three regattas, with 4 points. Commotion and Tortoise are tied for second with 8. There are five regattas remaining in the series: Cinco de Mayo on April 30/May 1; VYC's SailFest on July 9-10; PCYC's Yachting Cup on July 23-24; CIYC's Underwood Regatta on Aug. 13, and the final VYC Regatta on Aug. 27.

Results:

J-24 Class: 1-Commotion, Dave Witham, 7 (1-3-1-2); Jaded, Deke Klatt 8 (3-1-3-1); 3-Tortoise, Whisenhunt & Baum 9 (2-2-2-3); 4-Blue J, Cecile Schwedes 19 (4-4-4-dns); 5-Radio Flyer, Carlos Brea 22 (5-5-5-dns); 6-Abracadabra, Dan Chepley Jr. 25 (6-6-6-dns).

PHRF spinnaker: 1-Double Down, Brian Kerr 6 (2-1-2-1); 2--Majic Dragon, Mike Hopper 8 (1-4-1-2); 3-Wahoo, Alan Macnaughton (dns-dnf-dns).

Non-spinnaker: 1-Moore Fun, Joe Joines 6 (1-1-1-dns); 2-R Escape 9 (2-2-2-dnf).

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Ventura County High Point Standings (Score best 10 races; in parenthesis, number of races scored): Rival, J-35, Velthoen & Boatner 24 (4); Angry Hillbillies, Olson 30, Moore & Klatt 22 (5); Jaded, J-24, Deke Klatt 18 (3); Quiet Times, Hunter 37, Tom Warshauer, 18 (5); Veleroy, Islander 29, Brent Swanson, 16 (4); XS, Mull 30, Gene & Geno Beville, 16 (5); Tortoise, J-24, Whisenhunt & Baum 15 (5); Majic Dragon, J-22, Mike Hooper 13 (7); Fusee, Ben 38, Harry Krum 12 (4); Out Patient, Cal 29, Randy Alcorn 12 (5); Others: Zuma Jay 11, Breezy 11, Paradise Found 8, Double Down 7, Commotion 7, Sunrise 7, Moore Fun 6, Tuxedo Junction 5.

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Upcoming Sailboat Races

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2011 ocean sailboat racing schedule

April 9, AYC, Channel Islands to Newport Beach

April 9, VYC, PHRF & J-24 regatta (J-24 Series)

April 30, CIYC, Port Royal Regatta

April 30/May 1, SBYC/SBSC, Cinco de Mayo (J-24 Series)

May 4, AYC (Wet Wednesdays at C.I. Harbor through Sept. 28)

May 4, VYC (Wet Wednesdays at Ventura through Sept. 28)

(Fax your race announcements, results and other information to Stan Whisenhunt at 659-3058 or call him at 659-1464. His e-mail address is Swhisenhun@aol.com).