

Water Fronts for April 21

Six Ventura County skippers were trophy winners in last weekend's 125-mile Newport Beach to Ensenada Race.

One skipper - Bill Gibbs of Pierpont Bay Yacht Club - had the distinction of being the first to finish among 175 boats aboard his 52-foot catamaran, Afterburner. He finished 79 minutes, 30 seconds ahead of multiple America's Cup champion Dennis Conner's Farr 60, Stars & Stripes. Afterburner sailed the course in 17 hours, 8 minutes, 53 seconds. Despite that accomplishment, Afterburner corrected out to second place in the Ocean Racing Catamaran class behind another PBYC member, Gary Kahler aboard Drei, a 31-foot catamaran.

The other class winner was Second Chance, a Swan 44, in PHRF C, skippered by Phil Sauer of Channel Islands Navy Yacht Club.

Also taking home trophies were:

PK Edwards of VYC, taking second place in PHRF D aboard Wind Dancer, a Catalina 42. Edwards also won the 13-boat Catalina yachts class.

Mike Warns of CIYC, taking third place in PHRF A aboard Fifty-One-Fifty, a Santa Cruz 50.

Jim Eisenhart of VYC, taking fourth place in PHRF C aboard Sauvage, a Wauquiez 41.

The 175-boat fleet was the smallest in years in a World Famous event that used to regularly attract more than 500 boats.

The corrected times of the local trophy winning boats: Fifty-One-Fifty, 21:28:19; Drei, 21:23:34; Afterburner, 22:33:05; Second Chance, 28:51:56; Sauvage, 29:54:33; Wind Dancer, 30:41:20.

Another area winner was Larry Leveille of Santa Barbara Yacht Club, who won PHRF E in his J-29, Rush Street.

Gibbs won two take home trophies and three perpetuals. The perpetuals were for first overall, first to finish in the ORCA Class and first catamaran to finish. Ctewing for Gibbs were Don Meifert, Nick de Roulhac, Bobby Haynes, Kevin Schallert and Cameron Demaranville.

Along with Kahler's trophy, the amount won by Gibbs and Kahler gave small Pierpont Bay Yacht Club the distinction of winning the Spirit of Ensenada Trophy for the most perpetual trophies won.

The week before, Mike Warns took a third place trophy in the Border Run Race, sailing the 91-mile course from Newport Beach around the Coronado Islands and finishing at San Diego. Also taking a trophy in the Border Run race was S. K. Leong of Anacapa Yacht Club, who sailed 1421, a Hunter 36, to a third place finish in the Cruz D class in the 70-mile course from Newport Beach to San Diego.

SOLID BOX: Ivan Cox skippered Voyager to victory in the opening event of the Santa Barbara Channel Series of cruiser navigation (predicted log) contests on Saturday.

Despite predicted rough conditions, three boats from Ventura Yacht Club and one from Channel Islands Yacht Club turned out. Doug Buckingham of CIYC took second place.

Cox of Ventura Yacht Club won with a miserly net error factor of 0.8872 percent and he picked up 954 points toward the season championship.

Buckingham had an error factor of 1.2632 percent and earned 736 points.

Taking third was Sheri Green in It'll Do, while Bernie Marington placed fourth in Romance, the only sailboat in the contest.

The next event is May 14.

SOLID BOX: Ryan Cox of Ventura Yacht Club recently placed 18th out of 85 in the 505 World Championships in Australia.

SOLID BOX: Stay up-to-date with the latest notices of race, results and other timely information by joining the local Google Group for the Association of Santa Barbara Channel Yacht Clubs. Click over to: <http://groups.google.com/group/asbcyc> and then select "Join this group" on the right side of the page.

SOLID BOX: Upcoming Sailboat Races

■ Saturday, May 13, Hardway Race. Co-hosted by Santa Barbara Sailing Club and Pierpont Bay Yacht Club, this is the first race in PBYC's three-race Island Series. It is one of the races in the ASBCYC High Point Series. The entry fee is \$55 (\$50 for U.S. Sailing members). The skippers meeting, hosted by SBSC, will be at 9:30 a.m. The first start is at 11 a.m. There are three courses - the 67-mile Hardway course around Santa Cruz Island, the 47-mile coastwise spinnaker and multi-hull course around Anacapa Island and the 24-mile coastwise non-spinnaker course. For more information contact John Thawley at 218-8792 or jthawleydj@verizon.net, or Joe Vetrano at 256-5828 or sailstmartin@yahoo.com, or Chris Gilmour at 968-2380 or chris@gilmoursurveying.com.

SOLID BOX: 2011 ocean sailboat racing schedule

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).