

Water Fronts for April 29

Ventura County skippers brought home three first place trophies and a second from last weekend's 125-mile Newport Beach to Ensenada Race.

Two Ventura County boats were among the first 10 boats to finish the famous race. Bill Gibbs of Pierpont Bay Yacht Club was second to finish in the huge fleet in his 52-foot catamaran, Afterburner. Gibbs sailed the course in 11 hours, 17 minutes, 20 seconds. He placed first in the multi-hull class.

Mike Warns of Ventura Sailing Club was 10th to finish in his Santa Cruz 50, Fifty-One-Fifty, and was the winner in the PHRF-A Class.

The third local skipper to win his class was PK Edwards of Ventura Yacht Club, who placed first in the 22-bopat PHRF-D class in his Catalina 42, Wind Dancer.

Another VYC skipper, Jim Albert, placed second in the Cruz SA Class in Paradise Lost.

The turnout for the Ensenada Race was reduced drastically because of recent problems south of the boarder and a major competing race the same weekend - "there are way more shootings in Mexico than in San Diego " said one local racer who opted to sail in the Border Run Race.

In its glory days, the Ensenada Race used to attract more than 500 entries. This year, the turnout was 216. The competing Border Run Race attracted 181 boats.

The Border Run Race also started in Newport Beach, but finished in the more user-friendly San Diego. There were two courses in that race - a short course directly to San Diego and a long course around the Coronado Islands and then to San Diego.

Winning their class in the Border Run Race were Mitch and Will Yount of Ventura Sailing Club in Mitch's Reynolds 21, Wimpy, which sailed the short course in 14 hours, 31 minutes, 26 seconds.

Taking a third place trophy in the Border Run Race over the long course was Brad Barnes of Ventura Yacht Club in his Santana 30, Tuxedo Junction.

SOLID BOX:

Upcoming sailboat races:

-- Saturday, May 1, Port Royal Regatta. Hosted by Channel Islands Yacht Club, this regatta will feature a buoy course and a random leg course. There will be PHRF spinnaker and non-spinnaker classes. The entry fee is \$30 (\$25 for U.S. Sailing members). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the skippers meeting will be at 9. Racing begins at noon in the vicinity of the Mandalay buoy. Four races are planned for the spinnaker and non-spinnaker classes. One race is planned the cruising class.

-- Saturday, May 8, VCORC Random Leg Regatta. Hosted by Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club. Registration from 8 to 8:30. Skippers meeting at 8:30. Racing begins at 11 in the vicinity of the Mandalay buoy. Three short races are scheduled. Entry fee is \$45 (\$35 for USSA members). For more information, contact Fred Richardson at 658-1645 or e-mail him at fred-richardson@sbcglobal.net.

-- Saturday, May 15, Hardway Race. Hosted by Pierpont Bay Yacht Club and Santa Barbara Sailing Club, this is the first event in PBYC's Island Series. It is also part of the Association of Santa Barbara Channel Yacht Clubs high point series and scores double points in the Ventura County High Point Championship Series. The skipper's meeting is at 9:30 on Saturday May 15 at the SBSC dry storage area and the first start is at 11 AM. The entry fee for the Hardway Race is \$55 (\$50 for USSA members); the entry fee for the three-race series is \$135 (\$120 for USSA members). Skippers from Channel Islands and Ventura harbors need to request a slip in Santa Barbara by April 29. A minimum of five boats will be required in order for the race committee to include the Hardway course around Santa Cruz Island. The entry form, Santa Barbara slip request form and notice of race are on PBYC's website (www.pbyc.org). For further information, contact Richard Countess at rcountess@aol.com or at 818-889-2669.

SOLID BOX:

2010 ocean sailboat racing schedule:

May 1, CIYC, Port Royal Regatta.

May 1-2, SBSC/SBYC, Cinco de Mayo Regatta, J-24s.

May 5, AYC, Wet Wednesday Series begins (thru Sept. 29).

May 5, VYC, Wet Wednesday Series begins (thru Sept. 8).

May 8, PCYC, VCORC Random Leg, PacCorCup 2.

May 15, PBYC/SBSC, Hardway Race (Island Series 1). (Double points).

(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).