

Water Fronts for March 4

A 14-boat fleet braved thunder showers, high winds followed by dying winds and a tsunami-wracked Ventura Harbor entrance Saturday in the second race of Pierpont Bay Yacht Club's Spring Series.

Winners were Perfect Balance in Spinnaker A, Tortoise in Spinnaker B and Quiet Times in the non-spinnaker class.

Although 29 boats turned out for the first race of the series, the fleet was cut in half because of forecast for heavy rain. Not only was the forecast correct, but racers were prevented from entering the harbor by the harbor patrol for almost an hour until the large rip tides and heavy seas due to the tsunami caused by the magnitude 8.8 earthquake in Chile.

The two PHRF spinnaker classes were given a 16.2 mile course around platform Gilda and the non-spinnaker fleet was given a 9.9 mile course around the Fish Sticks and Mandalay buoys. The non-spinnaker boats, sailing a shorter course, were able to finish in the harbor entrance before the effect of the tsunami hit. The spinnaker boats were given finishes off the Whistle buoy and had to mill around for more than an hour waiting for better conditions in the entrance.

Perfect Balance, an Olson 30 skippered by Richard Sharpe, won Class A. Tortoise, a J-24 skippered by Garrett Baum, took Class B, and Tom Warshauer's Hunter 37, Quiet Times, prevailed in the non-spinnaker class.

The series will conclude on March 20. XS and Rival lead the Spinnaker A fleet with 4 points followed by Angry Hillbillies with 5. Tortoise leads the spinnaker B fleet with two first places followed by Majic Dragon with two second places. In the non-spinnaker fleet, Out Patient has 4 points and Quiet Times has 5. Honukai leads Afterburner by one point in the ORCA fleet.

Race Chair Richard Countess reminds skippers of PHRF-handicapped boats that they will need to submit a 2010 PHRF certificate on or before March 20 to be eligible for series trophies.

Results:

Class A: 1—Perfect Balance, Richard Sharpe, 2:35:12; 2—XS, Gene Beville, 2:39:22; 3—Rival, Velthoen, Boatner & DeFreitas, 2:39:35; 4—Funatic, Rod Abbott, 2:42:50; 5 (tie) Angry Hillbillies, Moore & Klatt, The Source, Joe Joines, 2:54:40; 7—Sprit Decision, George Moll, 3:02:51.

Class B: 1—Tortoise, Garrett Baum, 2:44:25; 2—Majic Dragon, Mike Hopper, 2:53:21; 3—Tuxedo Junction, Brad Barnes, 3:07:34.

Non-spinnaker: 1—Quiet Times, Tom Warshauer, 1:44:41; 2—Superstition, Bill Miller, 1:46:07; 3—Out Patient, Randy Alcorn, 1:50:00; 4—Breezy, Chris Johnstan, 1:59:47.

SOLID BOX:

County High Point Standings:

Out Patient, Cal 29, Randy Alcorn, 21; Tortoise, J-24, Whisenhunt & Baum, 21; Jaded, J-24, Deke Klatt, 18; Velero, Islander 29, Brent Swanson, 15; Rival, J-35, Velthoen, Boatner & DeFreitas, 11; XS, Mull 30, Gene Beville, 11; Breezy, Catalina 27, Chris Johnstan, 10; Blue J, J-24, Cecile Schwedes, 9; Angry Hillbillies, Olson 30, Moore & Klatt, 9; R Escape 8, Zumaq Jay 8, Quiet Times 8, Funatic 8, Majic Dragon 6, Perfect Balance 6, Fusee 6.

SOLID BOX:

Upcoming sailboat races:

* Saturday, March 13, AYC Saint Patrick's Day Race. This race will be followed by a corned beef and cabbage dinner. One crew member from each racing boat will be treated to a free dinner. The skippers meeting is at 8:30. Racing will begin at 11 a.m. in the vicinity of the Mandalay buoy. Entry fee is \$35. For more information, contact Gene Beville at 985-7921.

* Saturday, March 20, PBYC Spring Series 3. This is the final race in the series hosted by Pierpont Bay Yacht Club. The skippers meeting is at 8:30 a.m. and racing starts at 11 in the vicinity of the Mandalay buoy. Entry fee for non-series entrants is \$30 (\$25 for USSA members). For more information, contact Richard Countess at (818) 889-2669 or at Rcountess@aol.com.

SOLID BOX:

2010 ocean sailboat racing schedule:

Feb. 28, PCYC, Racing Rules Seminar

March 13, AYC, St. Patrick's Day Race

March 14, PCYC, Regional Training Race

March 20, PBYC, Spring Series 3

March 27, PCYC, McCune Race, PacCorCup 1. (Double points)

April 3, CIYC, Lady at Helm

(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).