

Water Fronts for Sept. 23

If it's possible for a sailboat racing regatta to be cursed, then last weekend's Santa Barbara Channel Challenge/Ventura Cup surely was.

Saturday's second race was marred by dense fog, a confusing starting sequence for one of the classes and a mark that was picked up by the race committee before all boats had rounded. The race committee wisely abandoned that race and rescheduled it for Sunday.

Then things got worse.

Sunday's action was marred by the death of Colt 45 skipper Dan Chepley, who suffered a fatal heart attack shortly after he had placed third in the day's first race and was getting ready to sail in the final race. Because of Chepley's death, the race committee abandoned the final race and the regatta was shortened to two races.

Things started out on a high note, as 32 boats entered – the biggest racing fleet of the year – including three boats from Santa Barbara Yacht Club. Even after Saturday's second race, things continued on a high note as the racers partied into the night at host Ventura Yacht Club.

The trophy ceremonies on Sunday were somewhat somber compared to prior years, although the crew of Colt 45 wanted fellow racers to enjoy the moment and to appreciate that Chepley died doing what he loved to do.

The winners:

Class A: The J-35, Rival, co-skipped by Dave Boatner and Paul DeFreitas, was the champion, winning both races that were scored.

Class B: Deke Klatt won Sunday's race and the tie-breaker over Blue Star to take the Challenge trophy aboard the Olson 30, Angry Hillbillies.

Class C: Stan Whisenhunt & Garrett Baum co-skipped the J-24, Tortoise, to victories in both races to win the class.

Non-spinnaker: Mike Leary sailed his J-30, Pangea, to first place on Saturday and second place on Sunday to win the class.

Ventura Cup: Ventura Yacht Club's Team Gold won the Cup for the second straight year. Team Gold consisted of Rival, Angry Hillbillies and Bryan Shaw's J-30, High Voltage, which placed third on Saturday and won Sunday's race.

Team Gold started the second day 1 point behind VYC's Team Blue, consisting of Colt 45, Tortoise and Pangea. But all three of Team Gold's boats won their races on Sunday to easily retain the Cup.

A highlight for many of the racers was watching the 68-foot Taxi Dancer from Santa Barbara Yacht Club charge around the courses both days. Taxi Dancer was part of an SBYC team which included Dr. Laura Schlessinger in her J-100, Perfect, and Larry Leveilla in his J-29, Rush Street.

Challenge results:

Race 1:

Class A: 1—Rival, 1:27:46; 2—Uhambo, 1:31:41; 3—Perfect, 1:31:42; 4—Colt 45, 1:41:40; 5—Maine Squeeze, 1:49:07; 6—Superluminal, 1:52:13.

Class B: 1—Blue Star, 1:29:32; 2—Angry Hillbillies, 1:30:30; 3—XS, 1:36:16; 4—Coyote, 1:36:39; 5—Rush Street, 1:38:54; 6—Double Down, 1:40:48; 7—Tunzagrunt, 1:41:50; 8—Wind Dancer, 1:58:31; 9—Endurance, 2:01:29; 10—Deliverance, 2:02:54; 11—Pacific Shredder, 2:06:15.

Class C: 1—Tortoise, 1:40:51; 2—Senior Advantage, 1:41:37; 3—Majic Dragon, 1:45:56; 4—Blue J, 1:47:26; 5—Eclipse, 1:55:00; 6—Alzora, 1:59:49.

Non-spinnaker: 1—Pangea, 0:49:56; 2—Taxi Dancer, 0:53:07; 3—High Voltage, 0:56:33; 4—Out Patient, 0:57:13; 5—R Escape, 1:02:36; 6—Scooter, 1:02:36; 7—Velero, 1:04:22; 8—Breezy, 1:07:37; dns—Flying Carpet.

Race 2

Class A: 1—Rival, 0:46:07; 2—Uhambo, 0:47:14; 3—Colt 45, 0:48:18; 4—Perfect, 0:48:43; 5—Maine Squeeze, 0:49:12; 6—Superluminal, 0:55:59.

Class B: 1—Angry Hillbillies, 0:45:25; 2—Blue Star, 0:46:22; 3—Double Down, 0:48:38; 4—Wind Dancer, 0:48:59; 5—XS, 0:50:42; 6—Tunzagrunt, 0:50:44; 7—Coyote, 0:51:12; 8—Rush Street, 0:52:59; 9—Enurance, 0:53:52; 10—Pacific Shredder, 0:55:50; 11—Deliverance, 0:57:10.

Class C: 1—Tortoise, 0:46:09; 2—Senior Advantage, 0:47:24; 3—Alzora, 0:48:16; 4—Blue J, 0:49:31; 5—Majic Dragon, 0:50:57; 6—Eclipse, 0:53:18.

Non-spinnaker: 1—High Voltage, 0:48:46; 2—Pangea, 0:49:04; 3—Taxi Dancer, 0:51:15; 4—Out Patient, 0:52:39; 5—R Escape, 0:53:39; 6—Scooter, 0:54:04; 7—Velero, 0:55:45; 8—Breezy, 0:56:19; 9—Flying Carpet, 1:02:43.

Ventura Cup Results:

1—VYC Team Gold, 8.7. (Rival 0, Angry Hillbillies 3, High Voltage 5.7).

2—VYC Team Blue, 16.7 (Tortoise 0, Pangea 3, Colt 45 13.7).

3—PBYC, 41.7 (Senior Advantage 6, Majic Dragon 15.7; R Escape 20).
4—VYC Team Red, 45.4. (Uhambo 6, Alzora 17.4, Wind Dancer 22).
5—SBYC, 46.4 (Taxi Dancer 8.7, Perfect 13.7, Rush Street 24).
6—AYC 1, 51.7 (XS 15.7, Out Patient 16, Maine Squeeze 20).
7—AYC 2, 75.4 (Coyote 21, Superluminal 23.4, Flying Carpet 21).
8—VSC, 81.1 (Scooter 23.4; Tunzagrunt 24.7, Pacific Shredder 33).

SOLID BOX:

Sailors, here's your chance to do something charitable. Support the old folk by participating in the Caregivers Sailathon on Sunday, Oct. 10. Pierpont Bay Yacht Club will be hosting this year.

The skippers meeting is at 9 a.m. Start time is noon off the Ventura Pier. See how many laps you can sail until 2 p.m. The entry fee is \$30, but the way to raise money is to get pledges per lap. A reception and awards ceremony will start at 3 p.m. at PBYC with lots of food, fun and prizes.

SOLID BOX:

County High Point Standings:

Out Patient, Cal 29, Randy Alcorn, 157; Angry Hillbillies, Olson 30, Moore & Klatt, 121; XS, Mull 30, Gene Beville, 95; Tortoise, J-24, Whisenhunt & Baum, 85; Breezy, Catalina 27, Chris Johnston, 76; Majic Dragon, J-22, Mike Hopper, 61; Velerio, Islander 29, Brent Swanson, 55; Pangea, J-30, Mike Leary & Dena Mercer, 54; R Escape, Catalina 320, Verne Haller, 46; Colt 45, Tripp 40, Dan Chepley, 45; Jaded, J-24, Deke Klatt, 45; Paradise Found 37, Rival 36, Funatic 35, Perfect Balance 32, Double Down 31, Zuma Jay 30.

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:

* Sunday, Oct. 3, Gal & Guy Series 1. Hosted by Ventura Yacht Club, this popular series gives the ladies a chance to take the helm. A female must drive and a male must do the crew work. The second and third races in the series will be on Sunday, Nov. 7. The entry fee for the series is \$50. Fee for individual races is \$20. The skippers meeting will be at 10 a.m. Racing will start at noon. For more information, contact VYC race chair Stan Whisenhunt at 659-1464 or e-mail him at Swhisenhun@aol.com.

* Saturday, Oct. 9, Two Harbor Fall Series 1. This first race is hosted by Pierpont Bay Yacht Club. The skippers meeting is at 8:30 and racing begins at 11 at the Mandalay Buoy. Races 2 and 3 will be Oct. 23 and Nov. 13 and hosted by Anacapa Yacht Club. The final race will be hosted by PBYC on Dec. 4. There will be one throw-out in the series. The 1st and 4th races finish at Ventura Harbor; the 2nd and 3rd races finish at Channel Islands Harbor. The entry fee for the series is \$90 (\$80 for USSA members), and the entry fee for individual races is \$30 (\$25 for USSA members). Boats need to be registered for the series prior to the second race to be eligible for series trophies. For further information, contact: Richard Countess (PBYC), phone: 818-889-2669, e-mail: rcountess@aol.com, or Gene Beville (AYC), phone: 805-469-9549, email: race@anacapayachtclub.com

SOLID BOX:

2010 ocean sailboat racing schedule:

Sept. 25, CIYC, VCMRF Charity Regatta

Oct. 3, VYC, Gal & Guy Series 1

Oct. 9, PBYC/AYC, Two Harbor Fall Series 1

Oct. 10, PBYC/VYC, Caregivers Sailathon

(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).