

Water Fronts for Sept. 22

Winning eight of nine races in the Santa Barbara Channel Challenge and taking second in the other, Ventura Yacht Club's Team Gold easily won the coveted Ventura Cup over the weekend.

Thirty two boats and nine yacht club teams competed in the two day regatta hosted by Ventura Yacht Club.

VYC boats took first place in each of the four classes, while boats from Santa Barbara Yacht Club took three seconds and a third.

Angry Hillbillies, an Olson 30 co-skipped by Paul Moore and Deke Klatt, and Tortoise, a J-24 co-skipped by Stan Whisenhunt and Garret Baum, had perfect weekends with three victories apiece, with Hillbillies winning Class B and Tortoise winning class C. They were part of the Ventura Cup-winning Team Gold. The third boat, Rival, a J-35 co-skipped by Dick Velthoen and Dave Boatner, had two wins and a second placed while taking top honors in Class A. Other boats winning individual races were:

* Katana, a Kernan 47 skippered by Dr. Laura Schlessing and part of PBYC's Team Blue, won race 2 in Class A.

* High Voltage, a J-30 skippered by Bryan Shaw and part of VYC's Team Blue, won Race 1 in the non-spinnaker class.

* Taxi Dancer, an R/P68 skippered by Tom Parker and part of the SBYC team, won race 2 in the non-spinnaker class.

* Zuma Jay, a Cal 25 skippered by Kevin Dickman and part of AYC's Team 2, won race 3 in the non-spinnaker class.

Santa Barbara Yacht Club, which had dominated the Ventura Cup in prior years, took second place in the team competition and vowed to bring more than one team to the 2012 regatta.

SBYC's team consisted of Taxi Dancer, which took second in the non-spinnaker class; Rush Street, a J-30 skippered by Larry Leville, which took second in Class B, and Miss Behavin, a J-22 skippered by Brian Green, which took third in Class C.

The third place team was Anacapa Yacht Club's Team 1, consisting of XS, a Mull 30 co-skipped by Gene and Geno Beville; Coyote, a J-29 skippered by Charles Howard, and Outpatient, a Cal 29 skippered by Randy Alcorn.

Sailing conditions were ideal on Saturday with brisk breezes for the two buoy races. On Sunday, the winds were light so the race committee headed by guest principal race officer Stan Betts of San Diego, shortened the courses for Class B and C to assure that all classes would have lead boats finish within the time limit. In Saturday, Classes A and B sailed windward-leeward courses of 10 and 7 miles, while Class C and the non-spinnaker class sailed courses of 7 and 5 miles. On Sunday, Class A sailed 18.5 miles around oil rig Gail and finishing at Ventura Harbor; Class B 14.6 miles around rig Gilda and finishing at Mandalay buoy; Class C 13.3 miles around Gilda and finishing at the "fishsticks" buoy; non-spinnaker class 16 miles around Gilda and finishing at the harbor. The non-spinnaker class sailed a longer courses than Classes B and C because the first finisher, Taxi Dancer, was easily able to finish within the time limit.

Racers praised the work of Betts and his crew members for their work over the weekend, setting good start lines and marks and selection of courses – and especially their work in shortening two courses to assure that non races would have to be thrown out.

The 2012 Santa Barbara Channel Challenge/Ventura Cup has been schedule for Sept. 15-16.

S.B. Channel Challenge results:

Class A: 1—Rival, Velthoen & Boatner, VYC, 4 (1-2-1); Katana, Dr. Laura Schlessinger, PBYC, 8 (2-1-5); 3—XS, Beville, AYC, 10.5 (3.5-3-4); 4—Maine Squeeze, Mike Taylor, AYC, 12 (5-5-2); 5—Buena Vista, Dwight Rowe, VYC, 13.5 (3.5-4-6).

Class B: 1—Angry Hillbillies, Moore & Klatt, VYC, 3 (1-1-1); 2—Rush Street, Larry Leville, SBYC, 8 (3-2-3); 3—Coyote, Charles Howard, AYC, 9 (4-3-2); 4—Tuxedo Junction, Brad Barnes, VYC, 14 (2-7-5); 5—Double Down, Brian Kerr, PBYC, 14 (6-4-4); True Blue, Tim Dronney, VYC, 16 (5-5-6).

Class C: 1—Tortoise, Whisenhunt & Baum, VYC, 3 (1-1-1); 2—Pangea, Mike Leary, VYC, 11 (4-2-5); 3—Miss Behavin', Brian Green, SBYC, 11 (5-3-3); 4—Senior Advantage, John Thawley, PBYC, 13 (3-4-6); 5—Blue J, Cecile Schweddes, VYC, 19 (2-7-10); 6—Majic Dragon, Mike Hopper, PBYC, 19 (6-6-7); 7—Abracadabra, Dan Chepley & Doug Daws, VYC, 20 (9-9-2); 8—Radio Flyer, Carlos Brea, VYC, 20 (8-8-4); 9—Rambunctious, Donna Lorenzen, AYC, 20 (7-5-8).

Non-spinnaker: 1—High Voltage, Bryan Shaw, VYC, 6 (1-2-3); 2—Taxi Dancer, Parker, SBYC, 11 (3-1-7); 3—Out Patient, Randy Alcorn, AYC, 11 (4-3-4); 4—Eclipse, Katelyn Dembowski, VYC, 15 (8-5-2); 5—Quiet Times, Tom Warshauer, CIYC, 18 (5-4-9); 6—Velero, Brent Swanson, CIYC, 19 (2-7-10); 7—Breezy, Chris Johnston, CIYC, 20 (6-9-5); 8—Zuma Jay, Kevin Dickmann, AYC, 21 (10-10-1); 9—Rage, Tom Roland, PBYC, 21 (7-6-8); 10—R Escape, Verne Haller, PBYC, 25 (11-8-6); 11—Endurance, Mike Stuzane, VYC, 32 (9-12-11).

Ventura Cup results:

1—VYC Gold, 10, Angry Hillbillies 3, Tortoise 3, Rival 4.

2—SBYC, 30, Rush Street 8, Miss Behavin' 11, Taxi Dancer 11.

3—AYC Team 1, 31, Coyote 9, XS 10.5, Out Patient 11.

4—VYC Blue, 31, High Voltage 6, Pangea 11, Tuxedo Junction 14.

5—PBYC Blue, 40, Katana 8, Senior Advantage 13, Majic Dragon 19.

6—VYC Red, 50, Buena Vista 13.5, True Blue 16, Radio Flyer 20.

7—AYC Team 2, 53, Maine Squeeze 12, Rambunctious 20, Zuma Jay 21.

8—CIYC, 57, Quiet Times 18, Velero 19, Breezy 20.

9—PBYC Red, 60, Double Down 14, Rage 21, R Escape 25.

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Ventura County High Point Standings (Score best 10 races; in parenthesis, number of races scored): Velero, Islander 29, Brent Swanson, 79 (10); Majic Dragon, J-22, Mike Hopper, 63 (10); Quiet Times, Hunter 37, Tom Warshauer, 61 (10); Angry Hillbillies, Olson 30, Paul Moore & Deke Klatt, 59 (10); Pangea J-30, Mike Leary & Dena Mercer, 59 (7); Out Patient, Cal 29, Randy Alcorn, 54 (10); Rival, J-35, Dick Velthoen & Dave Boatner, 51 (8); Breezy, Catalina 27, Chris Johnston, 49 (10); Tortoise, J-24, Stan Whisenhunt & Garrett Baum, 48 (10); XS, Mull 30, Gene & Geno Beville, 47 (10); Jaded, J-24, Deke Klatt, 32 (5); Maine Squeeze, Schock 35, Mike Taylor, 27 (9); High Voltage, J-30, Bryan Shaw, 27 (4); Fusee, Beneteau 38, Harry Krum, 22 (9); R Escape, Catalina 320, Verne Haller, 22 (8); Zuma Jay 21, Misfit 19, Double Down 19, Afterburner 17, Eclipse 15, Alcyone 14, Commotion 13, Moore Fun 12, Blue J 12, Runaway 12.

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Association of Santa Barbara Channel Yacht Clubs high points leaders: Velero 41, Quiet Times 30, Pangea 29, Breezy 28, Majic Dragon 21, Angry Hillbillies 17, Rival 17, Afterburner 16, Out Patient 15, R Escape 14, Tortoise 13, Maine Squeeze 12, XS 12, Bangorang 11, High Voltage 11, Eclipse 10.

Note: Each of the eight ASBCYC yacht clubs host a race in this series. The final event will be Santa Barbara Yacht Club's Holiday Regatta on Dec. 3-4.

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Upcoming Sailboat Races

* Saturday, Sept. 24, Lady at Helm Race. Co-hosted by Channel Islands Yacht Club and the Channel Islands Women's Sailing Association. There will be spinnaker and non-spinnaker classes. The course will be from the Mandalay buoy, around oil rig Gina and finishing in from of the CIYC clubhouse. The skippers meeting is at 8:30 a.m. and the race will begin at 11. Entry fee is \$30 (\$25 for U.S. Sailing members). For more information call CIYC at 985-2492 or e-mail Mary Howard at MHoward@venturalaw.com.

* Sunday, Sept. 25, TGIS Fall Series 2. This is the second of four races in the TGIS Fall Series, co-hosted by Pacific Corinthian and Anacapa yacht clubs. AYC will host this race and PCYC will host races 3 (Oct. 16) and 4 (Nov. 20). Entry fee is \$50 for the series or \$20 for individual races. All skippers meetings will be at AYC. The skippers meetings are at 11. Racing begins at 1 p.m. Starts will be outside of and the finishes in the vicinity of the Channel Islands Harbor outer breakwater. For more information, contact Gene Beville at 469-9549 or email him at genebeville@aol.com.

* Saturday, Oct. 1, Gal & Guy Series 1. Hosted by Ventura Yacht Club. This popular three race series has the gal doing the driving and the guy doing the crew work. There will be a J-24 class and probably a PHRF "experienced" class and a "novice" class depending on number of entries. Entry fee is \$50 for the series and \$20 for individual races, with discounts for early entries. Registration will begin at 9:30 and the skippers meeting will be at 10 a.m. Racing begins at noon. Other races in the series will be on Nov. 5 and Nov. 19. Daily and series awards will be presented on Nov. 19. For more information, visit the Ventura Yacht Club website at venturayachtclub.org or contact Race Chair Stan Whisenhunt at (805) 659-1464 or email him at Swhisenhun@aol.com.

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2011 ocean sailboat racing schedule

Sept. 24, CIYC, Lady at the Helm

Sept. 25, PCYC/AYC, TGIS Series 4.

Oct. 1, VYC, Gal & Guy Series 1.

Oct. 8, AYC/PBYC, Fall Series 1.

Oct. 9, VYC/PBYC, 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).