

Ullman Sails Long Beach Race Week

Long Beach and Alamitos Bay Yacht Clubs

June 23-25, 2006

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Coast Guard checks in on feisty first day of LBRW

LONG BEACH, Calif.---Anyone who thinks sailboat racing is dull should have seen Friday's opening day of Ullman Sails Long Beach Race Week.

The wind blew up to 22 knots as 160 boats thrashed through waves of 3 to 5 feet.

One was dismasted, another beached.

Two catamarans flipped upside down.

And, competition chairman/principal race officer Mark Townsend said, "We were arrested by the Coast Guard!"

The latter incident bordered on the bizarre and may have marked a first for Long Beach's long and hallowed history in sailing.

Early in the first race on the big boat course outside the Federal breakwater a U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat---one of those orange inflatables with a machine gun on the bow---pulled alongside the event photo boat at the windward mark as the PHRF 1 class rounded to go downwind. An officer said that the race course, set into the southwest, intruded on the commercial shipping lane into Long Beach Harbor. The photo boat referred the Coast Guard to Townsend at the other end of the course.

According to Townsend, the officer told him by radio, "Tell all of these sailors they can't sail there."

Townsend told the officer there was no way to tell them once the race was under way. Then, as one of the overturned Reynolds 33 catamarans bobbed nearby, its crew sitting helplessly atop the hulls

Windy, wet and wild!



but in no immediate danger, the officer ordered the committee boat to hoist anchor and proceed downwind to be boarded. Townsend assigned a mark boat to take the committee boat's place at one end of the finish line, and the race proceeded as the matter was discussed on board the committee boat.



"So [the Coast Guard officer] finally said, 'OK, you can stay out here . . . you'll just have to move [the windward mark],'" Townsend said.

The course was moved for the second race, the Coast Guard had done its job, and everybody was happy---especially the sailors who love big winds.



They would include locals Gary Mozer and Doug McLean, whose new J/105, Current Obsession, won both races in the event's largest class in its first serious competition. The initial success recalled Mozer's racing debut in a J/109 of the same name two years ago. He won the class, then repeated last year.

"Doug drove and Stan Gibbs did an incredible job setting up the boat," Mozer said. "We spent the right amount of time to prepare and practice. It was all communication and consistency."

It was also dealing with the ornery elements. Veterans Dennis and Sharon Case of San Diego logged two seconds behind Current Obsession, and he said, "We had more than enough breeze and were overpowered most of the time, so we did the usual things: tighten the headstay rock solid, move the [jib] fairleads back and set up the sails with a twist to widen the [steering] groove through the waves."



Mike George's Martin 242, 9 Lives, suffered the day's most serious damage when it broke its mast in a collision with Don Weimer's Catalina 38, Bilbo Baggins---not a nice experience for one of the event's sponsors, especially one who hosted a "Martini" party for the sailors Friday night. George was granted redress for average points should he be able to continue.

In another unusual episode, John Steen finished third in his first race but, flying through the line with his spinnaker full, was unable to stop before grinding onto the beach, flopping over on one side. Somehow the crew got the boat afloat in time to place fourth in the second race.



Three races are scheduled Saturday and two Sunday for a total of seven, and the competitors are ready for

The is the last of four stops on the Ullman Sails Inshore Championship series, following the Ahmanson Cup at Newport Beach in April, Yachting Cup at San Diego in May and Cal Race Week at Marina del Rey three weeks ago.

Class leaders

(after 2 of 7 races)

PHRF 1 (10 boats)---Taxi Dancer (R/P 68), Paul and Laura Sharp,

A photo gallery will be posted at
www.UnderTheSunPhotos.com

Newport Harbor YC, 1-2, 3 points.

PHRF 2 (11)---Arana (Dencho 51), John Carroll, California YC, 1-1, 5.

PHRF 3 (16)---Tabasco (1D35), John Wylie, San Diego YC, 1-1, 2.

J/120 (7)---Doctor No, Jed Olenick, San Diego YC, 1-2, 3.

REYNOLDS 33 (5)---Way-2-Go, Scott Klodowski, Huntington Harbour YC, 1-DNF, 7.

J/105 (20)---Current Obsession, Gary Mozer/Doug McLean, Long Beach YC, 1-1, 2.

MELGES 24 (8)---Pegasus 505, Dave Ullman, Balboa YC, 2-1, 3.

SCHOCK 35 (10)---Whiplash, Ray Godwin, Long Beach YC, 1-2, 3.

OLSON 30 (6)—Blue Star, Larry Spencer/Todd Downey, Pacific Corinthian YC, 1-1, 2.

J/109 (7)---Commotion, Tony Wetherbee, Dana Point YC, 1-1, 2.

BENETEAU 36.7 (8)---Tie between Bella Vita, Martin Burke, King Harbor YC, 1-3, and Tangerine, Tom Hirsh, Southwestern YC, 2-2, 4.

CATALINA 37 (5)---Cat 37, Will Durant, Long Beach YC, 1-1, 2.

PHRF 4 (19)---Blur (B-25), Dixon and Aaron Hall, Cabrillo Beach YC, 4-2, 6.

J/80 (8)---Blue Moon 2, Roland Fournier, Long Beach YC, 1-1, 2.

J/29 (6)---Macs, Eric and Steve McClure, Alamitos Bay YC, 1-1, 2.

MERCURY (14)---Wingman, Mark Comings, Cabrillo Beach YC, 2-2, 4.

[Complete results and more at www.lbrw.org](http://www.lbrw.org)

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