

*Jim DeWitt Memorial*

**2023 El Toro North American Championships**

July 27-30, 2023

Fresno Yacht Club

Huntington Lake, CA

- 1.1 RULES: Races will be governed by the "Rules" as defined in the Rules of Sailing (2021-2024). This is a Category "A" event.
  
- 2.1 SCHEDULE
  - Boat Tune-up/ Swap Meet/ Coaching
    - Thursday, July 27th 0930 – 1300
  - Practice Race
    - Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> 1400
  - North American Championship Race Series
    - Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> Skipper's Meeting 0930 at Regatta Tent
    - Friday, July 28th, 1100 First start: Three races
    - Saturday, July 29th, 1100 First start: Three races
    - Sunday, July 30th, 1100 First start: Two races
  
- 2.2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS AND SCHEDULE; Any change to the Sailing Instructions shall be posted prior to 0900 each scheduled race day. Any change to the schedule shall be posted by 1800 hours the day prior to the change taking effect.
  
- 3.1 SAFETY: Each participant is solely responsible for his/her personal safety. However, in circumstances it considers hazardous the Race Committee (RC) may exercise authority to require a boat to accept help. US Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation is required by the U.S. Forest Service and MUST be worn at all times while racing. Code Flag "Y" will be flown at all times by the RC. A painter or throw line of adequate length shall be carried at all times.
  
- 4.1 COURSES: Courses are described on the Jim DeWitt 2023 Memorial El Toro North Americans Course Chart. The course number will be displayed at the signal pole or in close proximity thereto. Marks shall be rounded between the mark and adjacent shore. MARKS: Marks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & Z are yellow buoys. Mark X is the red buoy approximately 500 feet from the inner buoy.
  
- 4.2 TIME LIMITS: The time limit to finish is 60 minutes. Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored DNF. This changes rules 35 and A4 and A5.
  
- 5.1 START/FINISH LINE: The start/finish line will be between an inner dark red buoy "S" approximately 100 feet off shore and an outer inflatable round red buoy "F"

approximately 150 feet from the inner buoy. Boats not racing shall keep clear of the starting line and its extensions.

- 5.2 **STARTING:** The Race Committee will be on shore. Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal given five (5) minutes before the starting signal.
- 5.3 **INDIVIDUAL AND GENERAL RECALLS:** Individual recalls will be in accordance with Racing Rules 29.2. The responsibility for a proper start lies with the competitor.
- 5.4 The Race Committee may hail the sail number or other identifying feature of any boat that was on course side of the starting line (OCS) at her start signal. The failure of a hail, the failure of a boat to hear a hail, or the order of the hail(s) shall not be grounds for a boat to request redress. This changes RRS 62.1.
- 5.5. The Race Committee may provide a series of short sound signals 30 seconds before the first warning.
- 5.6 Boats that withdraw or do not finish shall notify the race committee as soon as possible. In the event the race committee has left their station, please notify the staff at the registration tent.
- 6.1 **PROTESTS:** Race Committee must be notified of the protest, preferably at time of finish, but not later than 30 minutes after the last boat finished the last race of the day. A time of hearing will be arranged for but the protest may not be heard same day.
- 6.2 Competitors are encouraged to settle rules infractions on the water and avoid protests.
- 7.1 **SCORING:** Eight races are scheduled of which one (1) must be completed to constitute a series. Each boat's score shall be the total of her race scores. If five or more races are completed, she may drop her worst score. DSQ scores cannot be discarded. The Low Point System, Appendix A of the Racing Rules will apply.
- 8.1 **EQUIPMENT:** It is the responsibility of each competitor to sail a boat that complies with the El Toro Class Rules. All El Toros are required to carry a bailer and a paddle, of ping-pong size or larger.
- 9.1 **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:** Competitors participate in this regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4 – Decision to Race – “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone. The race organizers (organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, or any other organization or official) are not responsible for damage to boats or equipment.

#### 10.1 ABOUT THOSE COURSE NAMES:

- Spreaders: Jim DeWitt built a Toro mast with spreaders and advocated for everyone to use this new innovation
- Mallory Cup: DeWitt was the first winner of this US Sailing Championship from the West Coast in 1962, with a crew including Jocelyn Nash.
- B24 Liberator: There's an airplane at the bottom of Huntington Lake
- Trapeze: DeWitt reportedly tried this on his El Toro
- Lake Merritt: Where DeWitt started his sailing career.
- DeWitt Dinghy: Pioneering rotomolded dinghy roughly based on an El Toro
- Mono: Easterly wind at Huntington Lake
- Flower Pot: An obscure DeWitt-designed dinghy.
- 216: The number of the El Toro DeWitt built at age 19
- Fiasco: Infamous race around several islands
- Tradition: All those classic Huntington reaches
- Grand Tour: Random-Leg racing High Sierra style

#### 11.1 ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?

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