



I like the yellow light and long shadows of late afternoon. This is the start of the last Day 1 race; and the sky just cleared to let the sun pop out. USA 62 Chris Sullivan is in the waders in foreground, choosing a way forward position to view his boat at the far pin. Bob Wells photo.

## **2017 Midwinters (Feb 11 – 12, 2017)**

### **Mission Bay Model Yacht Pond in San Diego, CA**

Bob Wells reporting

Once again the San Diego Argonauts hosted IOM Midwinters at the venerable Mission Bay Model Boat Pond on Vacation Island in San Diego. Skippers came from California, Washington, Idaho, and Florida; and Baron Bremer from St. Augustine wins the farthest traveled award. Bob Hirsch was again organizer and Fred Rocha did another great job as organizer. Commodore Mike Eldred and Class Secretary Bruce Andersen handled measurement compliance. I'm not sure who organized the protest committee, but like all things at this regatta it was handled seamlessly. And the weather and wind cooperated, so another great regatta in San Diego.

At the Skippers Meeting a vote was taken and by a narrow margin we agreed to race two heats (not three) and tolerate more congestion on this relatively narrow course. This theoretically provided more racing, if the congestion does not create more protests. In this case protests were few so we got more racing in the end. Gene Harris was the bubble girl (sailing in both heats) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, sailing eight heats in a row until she finally had time for a potty break.

On this pond, more than any other I can think of, your position in the race shifts appreciably with each wind change until the finish. If you fall behind early, your odds are better here to get back in the hunt. While there are times when the wind is constant in velocity and direction, they don't last long. More likely there are constant gains or losses depending on if you are placing yourself best for the shift. Most of the fleet is fast so the difference is in your fleet management skills and how you set yourself up for the wind shifts. You will make a lot of tacks, so smooth tacks and mark rounding's add up and matter. The usual Cali suspects were in the top spots, because they make they manage all this better. The question was who would pull it out in the end. Mark Golison (V9) was hot the first day, and he enjoyed a nice lead. John Ebey (Britpop) was hot the second day, but he was 36 points behind after the 1<sup>st</sup> day in 4<sup>th</sup> place. I'd say Mark was unlucky in the end losing the top spot to John Ebey by one point. One "stinking" point as Freddy likes to emphasize at the awards ceremony with a devilish smile. George Pedrick (V10) rounded out the podium with a close third, and the most consistent overall finishes in the fleet. Only six points separated the top three.

Stories abound at any large race like this. We were all happy for organizer Bob Hirsch when he placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in his first race – newish skippers aren’t supposed to do that. He was sailing his new (used) Fusion (a rare Craig Smith design optimized for light wind) and credited the seller, Barry Donaher, with help in setting up the boat properly. Reality quickly set in, and Bob proved he needs more time sailing in big fleets as expected. Speed is not the problem though, so he is off to a good start in IOMs with an ideal boat for his home waters. And as Organizer, his regatta was first class once again. Thanks, Bob.

Jeffrey Pelt sailed a model yacht for the first time as he chartered Craig Mackey’s V7, and had an impressive performance thanks to past sailing in people boats and Craig’s tutoring. Jeffery flies F18s as his day job in the Marines, so eyesight, discipline, and nerve are not issues here. I thought it particularly appropriate the V7 color is “desert tan”. Craig’s boat is still for sale on IOMUSA.org by the way...

Bruce Andersen had a positive regatta. He was instrumental in promoting the M friendly regatta on Friday the day before the IOMs sailed, and that went very well. Then he hauled three Ms and two IOMs to San Diego, and loaned three so every boat sailed. Bob Dustin from Washington State sailed all three days, thanks to borrowing Bruce’s Pikanto. Bob is hooked and IOM sailing is in his future. Bruce personally had a good IOM regatta too. Thanks, Bruce, I greatly enjoyed my 1<sup>st</sup> M regatta sailing your Martin Firebrace design, I am afraid I may be hooked too.

This is my first Midwinter, as usually we are on a ski trip somewhere at this time (don’t remind me what a great snow year this is). We had such a good time socially at Nats here in October, we decided to leave the snow (literally it turned out) and head to Dago. San Diego didn’t disappoint our wives who are loath to watch a sailboat race, but otherwise all in to travel. For dinner, my favorite is still The Fishery near Pacific Beach on Cass Street. For our Mexican style food fix, Miguel’s is a cut above the rest in Old Town we think. I’m writing this on Tuesday morning after regatta, and I’m officially rested and not sleep-walking at work like yesterday from the delayed late flight. What a great weekend.

**Photos:** By Jerry Brower: [Here](#).

### **Regatta Summary:**

Event: 2017 San Diego Midwinters (US Club Ranking)

Date: February 11-12, 2017

Location: Mission Bay Model Boat Pond on Vacation Island

Host Club: San Diego Argonauts

Entries: 34

Winds: Mid 1-rig and below (to 1 knot)

Races Completed: 14

Regatta Committee: Organizer Bob Hirsch; PRO & Scoring: Fred Rocha; Measurements Mike Eldred & Bruce Andersen.

## 2017 San Diego Argonaut IOM Midwinter Regatta. Feb 11-12. Mission Bay Pond

Pts	Skipper	Sail	Sta	Hull	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	John Ebey	193	CA	britPOP!	38.0	2.0	7.0	6.0	9.0	13.0	11.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
2	Mark Gollison	55	CA	V9	39.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	15.0	1.0	1.0	6.0	10.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	4.0
3	George Pedrick	50	CA	V10	44.0	1.0	5.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	5.0	11.0	10.0	5.0	2.0
4	Gary Boell	71	CA	NITRO	73.0	5.0	14.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	18.0	20.0	10.0	6.0	15.0	3.0	6.0	3.0	5.0
5	Craig Mackey	29	CA	britPOP!	83.0	4.0	10.0	16.0	8.0	17.0	24.0	11.0	1.0	12.0	2.0	7.0	8.0	1.0	3.0
6	Chris Sullivan	62	CA	britPOP!	84.0	7.0	6.0	13.0	12.0	7.0	4.0	18.0	4.0	3.0	14.0	4.0	11.0	7.0	6.0
7	Stephan Cohen	28	CA	britPOP!	90.0	13.0	4.0	10.0	11.0	9.0	3.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	17.0	18.0	4.0	7.0
8	Steve Toschi	94	CA	Micro Brew 5	109.0	9.0	1.0	9.0	13.0	2.0	5.0	5.0	17.0	23.0	17.0	26.0	1.0	13.0	17.0
9	Baron Bremer	81	FL	britPOP!	113.0	6.0	8.0	5.0	15.0	14.0	10.0	6.0	12.0	9.0	9.0	14.0	7.0	16.0	13.0
10	Bob Wells	7	WA	Kantum S	120.0	8.0	17.0	8.0	5.0	10.0	17.0	22.0	15.0	7.0	16.0	12.0	3.0	11.0	8.0
11	Terence Heyns	44	CA	TNT	125.0	12.0	9.0	2.0	7.0	20.0	13.0	13.0	16.0	22.0	7.0	10.0	12.0	9.0	15.0
12	Ken Campbell	181	CA	V8	128.4	4.0	21.0	14.0	6.0	4.0	7.0	10.4	13.0	16.0	1.0	13.0	21.0	19.0	22.0
13	Bruce Andersen	16	ID	britPOP!	130.0	10.0	13.0	7.0	10.0	3.0	9.0	12.0	9.0	13.0	13.0	16.0	15.0	22.0	25.0
14	Jerry Brower	42	WA	britPOP!	136.0	3.0	3.0	15.0	20.0	23.0	16.0	8.0	35.0	15.0	12.0	5.0	9.0	18.0	12.0
15	Barry Donaher	47	UTA	V9	136.0	8.0	28.0	18.0	21.0	16.0	8.0	14.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	8.0	13.0	15.0	16.0
16	Dennis Rogers	43	CA	britPOP!	142.0	3.0	11.0	20.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	31.0	24.0	4.0	10.0	6.0	5.0	6.0	11.0
17	Glen Murray	59	CA	M3	143.0	7.0	12.0	17.0	17.0	8.0	14.0	3.0	5.0	20.0	21.0	9.0	14.0	17.0	20.0
18	Bill Wright	82	CA	Pikanto	172.0	5.0	18.0	11.0	1.0	18.0	15.0	16.0	26.0	19.0	26.0	19.0	35.0	10.0	14.0
19	Scott McConnell	21	WA	Kantum S	190.0	6.0	15.0	26.0	23.0	12.0	19.0	15.0	11.0	14.0	11.0	18.0	23.0	23.0	23.0
20	Jeffrey Pelt	89	CA	V7	207.0	9.0	24.0	21.0	18.0	29.0	23.0	9.0	18.0	21.0	19.0	21.0	27.0	14.0	10.0
21	Joe D'amico	86	WA	V10	211.0	11.0	23.0	23.0	14.0	6.0	2.0	19.0	22.0	27.0	23.0	23.0	28.0	24.0	21.0
22	Bob Hirsch	147	CA	FUSION	212.0	2.0	16.0	29.0	30.0	27.0	12.0	10.0	19.0	35.0	27.0	25.0	24.0	12.0	9.0
23	Steve Washburn	711	CA	CHEINZ	218.0	11.0	31.0	12.0	16.0	33.0	35.0	23.0	14.0	11.0	21.0	24.0	16.0	21.0	18.0
24	Gene Harris	57	CA	V9	228.0	14.0	22.0	22.0	19.0	21.0	21.0	25.0	21.0	18.0	18.0	15.0	17.0	20.0	29.0
25	Mike Eldred	39	CA	V8	278.0	14.0	27.0	31.0	28.0	19.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	17.0	22.0	22.0	26.0	28.0	19.0
26	Kim Robbins	121	CA	Stealth	285.0	13.0	21.0	19.0	27.0	28.0	27.0	29.0	23.0	26.0	35.0	21.0	30.0	25.0	26.0
27	Bob Dustin	116	WA	Pikanto	307.0	15.0	29.0	27.0	25.0	24.0	30.0	27.0	25.0	29.0	25.0	30.0	25.0	29.0	27.0
28	Jim Wondolleck	49	CA	britPOP!	313.0	10.0	25.0	24.0	24.0	11.0	20.0	24.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0
29	James Pletcher	72	CA	V10	313.0	16.0	19.0	34.0	31.0	32.0	25.0	21.0	30.0	25.0	35.0	31.0	21.0	35.0	28.0
30	Ben Reeve	68	CA	Wedge	322.0	17.0	26.0	33.0	33.0	31.0	26.0	30.0	27.0	24.0	29.0	27.0	29.0	26.0	30.0
31	Konrad Witt	113	CA	Pikanto	323.0	17.0	33.0	28.0	34.0	25.0	33.0	32.0	35.0	30.0	24.0	28.0	22.0	27.0	24.0
32	David Woodward	66	CA	Malteser	348.0	12.0	35.0	32.0	26.0	30.0	31.0	33.0	29.0	28.0	28.0	29.0	35.0	35.0	35.0
33	Gerry Wood	11	CA	Goth3	357.0	15.0	32.0	25.0	29.0	26.0	29.0	26.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0
34	Roy Cundiff	172	CA	Vapour	384.0	16.0	30.0	30.0	32.0	34.0	32.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0

Hosted by San Diego Argonauts. Chairman: Robert Hirsch. PRO: Feddy Rocha. Measure: Mike Eldred & Bruce Andersen.

## Excel



**USA 55 Mark Golison positioning himself for the next shift on the Model Yacht Pond at Mission Bay. Bob Wells photo.**





**It takes some gear to travel and compete, and you need a vehicle large enough to haul it all. We found the Dodge Caravan rental did the job nicely so four could sit comfortably with all the stuff in the back. Jackie Wells and Cindy McConnell smiled for the photo and Scott McConnell obediently looked at the camera. Bob Wells photo.**