



Looking West just after a start (leeward gates in foreground). What surprises me is how much space there is between the boats. It appears so much more crowded standing on the side with my Tx at the starting line. Bob Wells image.

## 2019 San Diego Midwinters

Mission Bay Model Yacht Pond in San Diego, CA

By Bob Wells

This bucket list radio sailing event came through yet again with excellent sailing and camaraderie on the venerable Model Yacht Pond, although this time the sunny conditions were unusually cold. Well, it was pretty cold in 2018 too, so is this an unwelcome trend? At least every day got warmer until the last day was acceptable for some February warmth. The host San Diego Argonauts pride themselves on running a first-class full-service regatta, and they did it again. PRO Freddie Rocha entertained and cajoled between races, and his professional race management is always appreciated. Organizer Bob Hirsch coordinated the many details along with Ben Reeve, while many other Argonauts pitched in.

The event received some international recognition by the live YouTube feed from Chuck LeMahieu's latest radio sailing venture, aptly named *Radio Sailing TV (RSTV)*. Chuck used Midwinters to trial equipment and procedures, and he was all in going live while he tested and sorted his equipment with local volunteers Steve Carson and Chris Beckwith. The sorting included incorporating live scoring from Dutchman Harry Drenth's *Sailing Today*, adding greatly to the telecast. Chuck shares many details about the trials and tribulations of RSTV's "Field Test #1", and his goals with this venture on RC Forums here: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3145344-San-Diego-Argonauts-2019-IOM-Mid-Winter-Regatta/page5>.

I wish you the best Chuck! RSTV video content can currently be found here:

**Vimeo:** <https://vimeo.com/radiosailingtv> (Video 1080P & above)

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoa...cmY2PIWd9dhPew> (Video 1080p)

**FaceBook:** <https://www.facebook.com/radiosailingtv/> (Video 720p)

Congratulations to John Ebey (Britpop) for repeating his 2018 Midwinters win. John separated himself from the fleet early and then he got better with a serious string of top finishes to the end of the regatta. The race was for second, where Mark Golison (V9) hung in to be the bridesmaid for his second year in a row. Craig Mackey (BP) followed in 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Kelly Martin (V10) was just one point behind in 4<sup>th</sup>. Last year's champion, Steve Landeau (V10) in 5<sup>th</sup> showed good consistency as he matched Ebey in keeping only single digit scores. Gary Boell (BP) in 6<sup>th</sup> and Stan Wallace (BP) in 7<sup>th</sup> separated themselves from the following pack. Larry Grant (V8) in 15<sup>th</sup> missed the first day to attend a funeral, or he would have been up there with these guys with consistent solid finishes over his two days.

A healthy 15% of our entries are custom IOMs from owners that like their shop time. Our international collaboration entry has Argonaut David Woodward building the *Flyer* proto from Italian design with a Malta-based project manager – see <https://www.facebook.com/iomflyer/>. David seemed more consistent this year, but I think this very beamy design wants bigger wind than is available here. *Flyer* had more than a few nice moments downwind though. Our other builders choose to add the complexity (and rewards) of design, and then once built the sorting includes refining setup and tuning. This is not the easy way. David Jensen's woody *Race Ready II* was the beauty, and she sailed well. David continues to work

on his fleet sailing skills, and he achieved a few visits to A Fleet. The fiberglass one-offs included designs by Glen Murray, Steve Toschi, and John Elmaleh. I will award Toschi's *Micro Brew 6* as sweetest looking, but the winner of this race within the race was Elmaleh. He sailed his beamy red boat with lots of forward rocker for the first time at Midwinters. Doing it this way can be frustrating, but Elmaleh obviously knows the process well. He improved enough through the regatta to finish regularly in A Fleet on the last day, and with some podium heat finishes.

Kudos also to the guys that travel longer distances to attend; including Stan Wallace (BAH), the New York City contingent of John Elmaleh and Roy Langbord, Michel Roure (New Jersey), and Steve Landeau (Georgia). All are Midwinters regulars. And this brings me to our farthest traveler, multiple IOM World Champion Brad Gibson (BG) from the UK. (BG has multiple M and 10R World's trophies too.)

I've long thought that to improve my IOM performance that I either need to sail a lot more regularly and/or seek out a sailing mentor. Roy Langbord and Gary Boell acted on mentoring bigtime. Roy has used BG as a mentor before, and with Midwinters Boells took the next step to add BG as a mentor too. After sailing many different IOM designs for years, Gary settled on the Britpop design that he and BG tweaked both in the lead up to and during the regatta. It wasn't only Roy and Gary and the many BP owners on hand that benefitted from Brad's experience. He also openly offered tips and advice to all skippers over the 4 days he was on hand. Through it all he displayed a positive light good humor. That wasn't all. On the evening of Day 1, BG held a clinic at Fiddler's Green restaurant for the fleet, with a number of topics discussed for better racing. BG's presence added greatly to an already special event. I had to pinch myself a couple of times to make sure I wasn't dreaming.

At the awards ceremonies we shared our camaraderie and cheered a few more times. Nick Allen got the biggest cheers winning the New Skipper prize. Nick is not a new skipper, but he is one happy renewed skipper after overcoming scary health issues. Unexpectedly, BG was chosen for our Corinthian Skipper prize, because he helped everybody. You can't get more Corinthian than that. Everybody was also pleased when local Kim Robbins (Stealth), with by far the oldest boat, earned a new set of BG sails as a well-deserved runner-up Corinthian prize donated by BG. Kim does need new sails! Then Jim Wondolleck (BP) significantly upgraded his baseball cap style with a new BG version as his prize for 3<sup>rd</sup> Corinthian. Three Corinthian prizes is an event tell of the positive and respectful vibe of the otherwise highly competitive sailing that we enjoy at this annual regatta.

Organizer Bob Hirsh announced that he is stepping back from organizing Argonaut events after three years. Thank you, Bob. Sail more now - you earned it.

### **Regatta Summary:**

Event: 2019 San Diego Midwinters

Date: February 22-24, 2019

Location: Mission Bay Model Boat Pond on Vacation Island

Host Club: San Diego Argonauts

Entries: 36

Winds: Low to middle 1-rig (with gusts, lulls, and even some swirls)

Races Completed: 16 (48 heats)

Scoring: HMS 2016 V3

Regatta Committee: Organizer Bob Hirsch; PRO & Scoring: Fred Rocha; Volunteers included Argonauts Ben Reeve, David Woodward, Kim Robbins, Mike Eldred, and and Mark Halberg (our custom sandwich coordinator).

### ***My notes from BG's evening Midwinter's Coaching Clinic:***

*After a brief introduction BG said he had sailed in the 2005 Midwinters, and compared to then, he was happy to see that we are sailing more respectfully of our competitors. Brad then proceeded to his seminar that included brief pithy comments, a style that he hoped that would help us remember the suggestion when needed. A number of topics were covered including **starting technique** and where to stand to see your boat, **tacking for speed**, **approach to the windward mark**, **staying in pressure on a run**, **patience**, **documenting fast settings**, getting the best from what you have and **beating the race course**, not always the boat next to you. Below is a sample of the advice shared:*

### **Where to stand on the bank:**

**Starting:** Stand in front of the start line (per image below), where you see all the bows of all front-line boats. Accelerate with the boats next to you - with max speed by footing slightly as you hit the line. If the pack is early, then a general recall doesn't hurt you. Do not stand behind or in line with the start line it assures a 2<sup>nd</sup> tier start and a likely sight loss of your boat.

**Upwind:** Walk no further forward than parallel with your boat so you can see both your boat and the wind ahead with small head movements, regularly looking up the course for breeze and shifts to anticipate your next move. Avoid where possible walking forward of your boat, except when needed to view it behind others in traffic, then allow your boat to catch up to you.

**Downwind:** Walk parallel with your boat so you can see both your boat and the wind behind, and look for breeze and shifts. Concentrate on having a clear view of your jib setting to ensure it is always setting on a goose-winged run. (Far too often we see boats running by the lee with a Jib flapping that the skipper should steer up to fill or gybe onto a favored tack)

**If you can't see your boat:** Move until you can see it. It is your bad planning if you foul because you can't see your boat, and it is not an excuse.



Looking South forward of the start line just after the gun, with PRO Freddie Rocha calling the line to the left in 2015 when it was much warmer. From this view it looks crowded, and very different from the first image of this report. Everybody is to weather of the line where they can see the bows of the first-tier boats plus incoming wind, per BG's suggestion on "where to stand." Bob Hirsch image.

## 2019 IOM Midwinter Results:

	Skipper	State	Hull	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	John Ebey	CA	britPOP	32.5	3.0	3.0	3.5	4.0	15.0	3.0	6.0	1.0	2.0	12.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	16.0
2	Mark Golison	CA	V9	56.0	6.0	11.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	16.0	3.0	5.0	13.0	6.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	7.0	13.0	4.0
3	Craig Mackey	CA	britPOP	64.0	2.0	5.0	10.0	3.0	10.0	2.0	13.0	7.0	7.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	12.0	3.0	7.0
4	Kelly Martin	WA	V10	65.0	4.0	4.0	37.0	12.0	4.0	15.0	21.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	5.0	6.0	3.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
5	Steve Landeau	GA	V10	72.0	2.0	1.0	6.0	1.0	3.0	4.0	10.0	9.0	6.0	8.0	9.0	9.0	14.0	9.0	5.0	13.0
6	Gary Boell	CA	britPOP	74.0	1.0	8.0	7.0	14.0	2.0	6.0	2.0	6.0	5.0	14.0	11.0	2.0	12.0	14.0	6.0	6.0
7	Stan Wallace	FL	britPOP	78.0	7.0	20.0	1.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	9.0	1.0	12.0	7.0	4.0	2.0	9.0	10.0
8	Roy Langboard	NY	britPOP	108.0	7.0	17.0	3.0	8.0	8.0	5.0	9.0	15.0	19.0	4.0	13.0	21.0	13.0	5.0	10.0	8.0
9	Barry Donaher	UT	Sedici	111.0	4.0	15.0	18.0	17.0	20.0	11.0	7.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	7.0	11.0	9.0	10.0	17.0	11.0
10	Dennis Rogers	CA	britPOP	113.0	1.0	13.0	20.0	5.0	12.0	20.0	24.0	2.0	10.0	10.0	8.0	5.0	7.0	8.0	17.0	15.0
11	Jess Atkinson	CA	V8	135.0	7.0	26.0	22.0	26.0	29.0	1.0	1.0	13.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	16.0	21.0	19.0	14.0	17.0
12	Steve Toschi	CA	MB 6	138.0	3.0	14.0	26.0	18.0	9.0	10.0	5.0	8.0	15.0	18.0	20.0	19.0	17.0	11.0	7.0	3.0
13	Jon Elmaleh	NY	DeBow 5	139.0	6.0	21.0	21.0	9.0	14.0	19.0	14.0	20.0	11.0	15.0	10.0	10.0	16.0	4.0	2.0	9.0
14	Bob Wells	WA	Fusion	152.0	2.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	7.0	13.0	15.0	17.0	17.0	25.0	15.0	22.0	10.0	13.0	23.0	19.0
15	Larry Grant	CA	V8	162.0	13.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	7.0	4.0	12.0	8.0	13.0	19.0	17.0	6.0	3.0	11.0	12.0
16	Chris Sullivan	CA	britPOP	163.0	8.0	10.0	5.0	13.0	11.0	22.0	16.0	24.0	25.0	20.0	17.0	13.0	11.0	25.0	12.0	5.0
17	Stephan Cohen	CA	britPOP	171.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	11.0	13.0	25.0	12.0	14.0	24.0	29.0	6.0	14.0	25.0	22.0	37.0	37.0
18	Konrad Witt	CA	V9	176.0	5.0	9.0	11.0	6.0	6.0	9.0	11.0	18.0	20.0	19.0	21.0	25.0	27.0	21.0	24.0	20.0
19	Jim Wondolleck	CA	britPOP	203.0	6.0	23.0	9.0	15.0	21.0	29.0	25.0	27.0	14.0	16.0	25.0	24.0	24.0	17.0	8.0	1.0
20	Joe D'Amico	WA	V9	233.0	3.0	12.0	19.0	20.0	24.0	28.0	18.0	11.0	26.0	27.0	23.0	8.0	15.0	27.0	37.0	37.0
21	Bruce Andersen	ID	britPOP	243.0	5.0	16.0	17.0	23.0	17.0	21.0	17.0	25.0	27.0	9.0	14.0	23.0	29.0	37.0	37.0	37.0
22	John Skiner	CA	britPOP	246.0	10.0	24.0	27.0	28.0	31.0	24.0	20.0	21.0	21.0	17.0	26.0	26.0	8.0	16.0	19.0	14.0
23	Glen Murray	CA	M3	247.0	8.0	22.0	24.0	24.0	22.0	23.0	27.0	26.0	22.0	11.0	16.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	21.0	37.0
24	Michel Roue	NJ	britPOP	250.0	8.0	19.0	12.0	19.0	19.0	18.0	22.0	22.0	30.0	23.0	29.0	29.0	19.0	20.0	22.0	27.0
25	Nicholas Allen	CA	Detox	270.0	9.0	37.0	37.0	21.0	23.0	14.0	19.0	37.0	12.0	24.0	37.0	20.0	23.0	24.0	26.0	18.0
26	Bill Bridge	CA	V7	273.0	10.0	29.0	30.0	30.0	16.0	12.0	26.0	23.0	29.0	27.0	18.0	15.0	22.0	30.0	20.0	26.0
27	P. Huttemeier	CA	britPOP	280.0	4.0	7.0	37.0	17.0	18.0	27.0	28.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	24.0	12.0	26.0	31.0	27.0	28.0
28	Kim Robbins	CA	Stealth	281.0	5.0	27.0	28.0	29.0	28.0	17.0	23.0	19.0	16.0	21.0	30.0	28.0	28.0	29.0	18.0	23.0
29	D. Woodward	CA	Flyer	287.0	9.0	25.0	17.0	25.0	26.0	32.0	30.0	30.0	18.0	22.0	22.0	30.0	20.0	23.0	28.0	22.0
30	David Jensen	WA	RR II	298.0	9.0	18.0	25.0	22.0	30.0	27.0	29.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	27.0	32.0	32.0	15.0	17.0	25.0
31	Ben Reeve	CA	K2	345.0	11.0	30.0	29.0	31.0	27.0	31.0	31.0	32.0	23.0	30.0	28.0	31.0	31.0	28.0	25.0	21.0
32	Jim Atkinson	CA	V10	349.0	11.0	31.0	23.0	32.0	25.0	30.0	32.0	29.0	32.0	32.0	31.0	27.0	30.0	27.0	29.0	24.0
33	Robert Harper	CA	britPOP	425.0	10.0	28.0	31.0	27.0	37.0	33.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0
34	S. Washburn	CA	CHEINZ	457.0	13.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0
34	Brad Gibson	U.K.	britPOP	457.0	13.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0
34	Bob Hirsch	CA	Detox	457.0	13.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0