

2023 Coronado 15 North American Championships  
Huntington Lake, Ca

Once again the Coronado 15 NACs traveled to Huntington Lake, one of the most beautiful and amazing places to race that I can think of. Although the fleet was smaller than we had hoped for, the action was jammed packed with tight racing all over the fleet. 10 boats ended up making the trip to Huntington, and the fleet was greeted with great weather and wind despite the extremely hot temperatures in the valley floor below (which can cause clouds, lighter winds, and even thunderstorms at times). We had 5 races scheduled on Friday, and racing over the weekend in conjunction with the High Sierra regatta schedule of 3 on Saturday, and 2 more on Sunday. With 10 races in the series, and no throw outs, all of the races were going to be important at this event.

After the first three races it appeared that this event would be a three boat race for the title. Ole Eichorn, Chris Nesbit, and Dave Rumbaugh quickly distance themselves from the fleet in the first few races. Dave Rumbaugh with crew Steve Fishman won the first two races, and Ole (2nd and 3rd) with crew Carly Morgan and Chris (3rd and 2nd) sailing with Travis Wilson traded spots each race. Race three is where things got interesting for Dave and Steve. Ahead in the final beat to the finish, the jib halyard broke sending the jib down into the water. Steve was able to gather up the sail and lay it in the boat, continuing on to the finish but they were not able to hold off Chris who finished 1st nor Ole who finished 2nd again. The scheduled lunch break that followed the third race was now spent working on trying to repair the jib halyard. After a quick change out of halyards, it was back to the race course since they were already in the starting sequence when they left the dock. Ole came out sporting the speed that we have all been accustomed to seeing over the years winning the final 2 races of the day, and Chris finished with another two seconds. Race 5 showed that Adam Quest with crew Mike Stoller had the speed to hang with the leaders, when they were able to hold off Dave and Steve for 3rd. After 5 races Ole was in first with 9 pts, Chris in second with 10 pts, and Dave with 12 pts.

Day 2 came and the racing was now combined with Fresno Yacht Club's High Sierra regatta. Luckily they also had a small turnout for the weekend, so there were not a lot of issues with other boats on the course. Dave and Steve were able to win all three races on Saturday to take the lead, but again not without issues with the jib halyard. During race 7, the fleet went a little farther up the lake. Dave and Steve played the right side of the lake (which is not the typical way to go) on the first beat and were rewarded with a large lead over the fleet at the top mark. Coming into the weather mark, the halyard broke again, which totally reduced the tension in the rig. Figuring that most of the race was going to be downwind, Dave was not totally concerned about losing his rig tension (but this will prove to be wrong in a big way). The fleet continued to gain on Dave and Steve the rest of the race. By the leeward mark Ole and Chris were right behind Dave going to the finish. A short tacking duel developed and Dave lost on every tack. Coming into the finish Dave tacked below Ole and pinched up at the pin end of the line to win the race by a foot and half. Chris was right behind us both for 3rd. Race 8 started and once again Dave played the right hand side of the lake, followed by Adam Quest. By the weather mark, Dave was once again in a comfortable lead followed by Adam. Dave held the lead and Adam was able to hold off the rest of the fleet for his best finish to date in a NAC race,

2nd! With Chris finishing in 3rd and Ole in 4th the final day of the regatta was going to be a shoot out.

Sunday, and the final 2 races for the title. Dave went into the day with the lead and 15 pts, Ole in second with 17 pts, and Chris in 3rd with 19pts. The first race of the day, Ole showed his speed once again and sailed away to a comfortable lead and race win. Chris continued to cover Dave all the way around the race course and finished 2nd with Dave finishing in 3rd. So going into the 10th and final race Dave and Ole were tied with 18 pts, followed by Chris with 21 pts. The pressure was on! Start of the final race and the gun goes off...but then a second gun goes off...someone is OCS! The race committee is communicating over the radio that 3699 is OCS, Dave and Steve! Upon hearing that they are over early they turn back to the starting line. Once they are cleared they turn back up the course in dead last and start making progress catching up with the entire fleet. Going to the boy scout cove (the typical way you sail this leg) Dave was behind and to leeward of Chris and Ole. Up the long beat to mark 4, Dave continued to make gains on the leaders but still to leeward. By the time the boats finally tacked to port, Dave was even with Ole and just behind Chris (but still to leeward). Getting to the weather mark it was Chris in first and Ole in second, followed by Dave in third about 8 boat lengths back. Not much happened on the downwind run, and by the time the boats got to the first leeward mark no real gains were made. Back up a short beat to another weather mark and Dave closed up on Ole a bit rounding about 4 boat lengths behind. Another run downwind to the bottom mark and Chris was able to sail away from the boats battling it out for second. Dave was able to sail up to Ole and get an inside lane on starboard. A gybe to port, and both boats were sailing in a high mode towards the shore. Ole was trying to roll over the top of Dave, but Dave was able to hold him off. A gybe back to starboard and heading towards the mark Dave was able to keep his slim lead over Ole at the bottom mark. Ole instigated a tacking duel that consisted of 15 or so tacks, one immediately after the other. Finally they got to the layline for the finish, and with only one more tack to the finish Dave and Steve tacked over to secure a second place finish followed by Ole in third. With the OCS comeback, beating Ole in the final race secured another title for Dave and Steve. Final results have Dave and Steve with 20 pts, Ole and Carly with 21 pts, and Chris and Travis with 22 pts.

### Cabrillo Fleet Championships

With only three boats in the Cabrillo fleet, the racing was also tight this year. All three boats were able to win at least one race during the series. After the first day (5 races) Carl Hage with crew Eric Flynn had 8 pts, and Arman Rezaee sailing with his two kids Simone (10) and Malcolm (7) and Ray Sereni sailing with Bryan Heyeck (this was his first time sailing ever) were tied with 11 pts each. After day 2 (8 total races), Ray was in first with 15 pts, Carl in second with 16 pts, and Arman in third with 17 pts. Carl had a tough day with his outhaul breaking during a race requiring him to fix it on the race course to continue racing. All three boats were 2 pts apart going into the final races of the series on Sunday. On Sunday, Carl showed his speed and tactics from early on winning both races on Sunday and the title with 18 pts, followed by Ray with 19 pts, and Arman in third with 23 pts. The fleet showed great camaraderie and really pushed each other on the water.