



LASER SKIPPER IS FIRST IN HIS CLASS TO WIN THE CAMELLIA CUP REGATTA

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EL DORADO HILLS, CALIF. – Not in the 53-year history of the Camellia Cup Regatta had a Laser sailboat skipper won the Cup until Sebastopol's Emilio Castelli, representing the Richmond Yacht Club on his boat "Leaky Lena," topped the Laser Class to be named 2019 Camellia Cup Champion.

The Folsom Lake Yacht Club's annual regatta attracted sailboats from across California and Oregon, as far away as Indio. Among them were 12 Laser skippers.

The Laser, a single-handed dinghy created by Ian Bruce in 1969, was selected in 1993 as an Olympics Games sailing class and is one of the most popular classes of sailboat with 200,000 made. Considering its worldwide popularity, that a Laser skipper had never won Camellia Cup was a point of frustration to Northern California's Laser fleet, which had rallied at recent CamCups to erase this omission.

Castelli locked up the Laser class to score three first place finishes and a second, losing only to overall Laser class second-place finisher, Julian Soto. But, to win CamCup, he also had to post a better overall score than the top sailors in other classes.

FLYC determines the Camellia Cup Champion through a formula that weighs both the number of boats registered in a class and number of wins by individual boats. In past years, the Lasers had given up points to larger fleets of Banshees and Santana 20s, but their skippers were determined to win it all this year and cheered exuberantly when Castelli was announced as the regatta's champion.

For his reward, a Laser will be featured on next year's CamCup commemorative shirt, Castelli's name and boat class will be engraved on the regatta's perpetual silver bowl and on its perpetual Open Centerboard trophy (made out of a classic mahogany Banshee centerboard – richly appreciated by the Laser skippers who'd lost the Cup to Banshees previously). Castelli was also presented with victor's battle pennants for class and overall champion victories and bottles of Captain Morgan rum in recognition of Castelli's good-natured sportsmanship, all of which were raised triumphantly by a celebratory group of Laser sailors, following the awards ceremony.

The win was particularly sweet for the Laser skippers who'd sought to add Camellia Cup to Laser District 24's standard series of regattas within the West Coast Sailing Grand

Prix. Longtime Sacramento Laser sailor Steve Aguilar was praised for his tireless advocacy that Camellia Cup be included in the West Coast Sailing Grand Prix; he left the ceremonies wearing a smile almost as big as Castelli's.

Winning the 11-boat Banshee class was Scuttlebutt Sailing Association's Craig Lee of El Dorado Hills on "*In N Out*". Lee finished first in three races and third in the fourth in fresh breezes that varied from 4 to 8 mph on Saturday. No races were held on Sunday due to light winds.

Top Open Centerboard sailor was Steve Lowry of Santa Rosa, representing the Richmond YC while sailing his Daysailer, "*Flight Risk*." Top Cat on the water was "*After You*," an F-24 trimaran sailed by Granite Bay's Jon Kim who won the Open Multihull class while representing the host Folsom Lake Yacht Club.

Completing clean sweeps of their four-boat classes were: Roseville's Don Hare, representing the Gold Country YC on "*No Cat Hare*" to win the Catalina 22 class; Oregon's Glen Hughes of the Eugene Yacht Club on "*60 Grit*" to top the Santana 20 class; and Sacramento's Rob Koch on his J-22, "*Poco-a-Poco*," to win the Open Keel class for FLYC.

Cruiser skippers were presented bottles of fine spirits in thanks for their sportsmanship and competitive spirit while competing in open classes against race-tuned boats. Seasoned racers praised the cruiser skippers for their determination, competitiveness with each other and said they deserved the special recognition. One racer quipped that next year he planned to enter an International 505 (a highly technical racing dinghy) fitted with a galley, in order to sail with the cruisers and win one of the bottles.

Competing in radio-controlled sailboat classes, organized by the Sacramento Model Yacht Club as an integral element of Camellia Cup, were six J-class model yachts (1/16th-scale replicas of America's Cup yachts of the 1930s, as big as 8.5-feet long). SMYC's Marty Lawson won the class sailing a replica of the 1937 America's Cup winner, "*Ranger*" in ten races. Brisk winds, varying between 6 and 8 mph provided exciting sailing, though technical problems dry-docked half the fleet.

On Sunday, in light breezes that varied from zero to four mph, 12 Santa Barbara class (6-foot long) model yachts sailed in five competitive races that included dramatic lead changes. Winning the Santa Barbara class and a model-yacht-sized version of the Camellia Cup was SMYC's Steve Bechtold.

Radio-controlled sailboat racing is governed by US Sailing with rules similar to those used by full-sized sailboats. Many R/C sailors sail and compete on full-sized boats, though the sport also includes sailors who don't. The national championships for the Santa Barbara class of model yachts will be held at Bridgeway Lakes in West Sacramento in September.

The Folsom Lake Yacht Club was established in 1957. It is located at Brown's Ravine within Folsom Lake State Recreation Area in El Dorado Hills. FLYC conducts sailboat racing, cruises and social events. More about the club is found at www.flyc.org.

Complete race results follow, including: skipper, hometown, yacht club, boat type, boat name, and cumulative finish point totals (pts):

Laser (4 races, no throwouts)

1. Emilio Castelli, Sebastopol, Richmond YC, *Leaky Lena*, 5 pts
2. Julian Soto, Campbell, Del Rey YC, 7 pts
3. Toshinari Takayanagi, San Jose, RYC, *Voyager I*, 18 pts
4. Chris Ganne, Vallejo, Benicia YC, *ZFG*, 21 pts
5. Lance Kim, Livermore, Alameda Community SC, *Murrica*, 21 pts
6. David Anthes, Bend, OR, SSC, *Glamper*, 24 pts
7. Dan Depew, San Francisco, Treasure Island SC, 39 pts
8. Steven Schmidt, Vallejo, Int'l Laser Class Assn., 19 pts
9. Rick Landell, San Mateo, Cooper River YC, 30 pts
10. Steve Aguilar, Sacramento, Lake Washington SC, *Single with Baggage*, 39 pts
11. Bruce Ryhal, Granite Bay, FLYC, 43 pts
12. Sergio Rizzo, El Cerrito, Cal SC, *Vanguard*, 50 pts

Banshee (4 races, no throwouts)

1. Craig Lee, El Dorado Hills, Scuttlebutt SC, *In N Out*, 6 pts
2. Wayne Cassingham, Santa Cruz, SSC, *Cruzin*, 16 pts
3. Steve Anderes, Cupertino, Singlehanded Sailing Society, *Spirito Voloce*, 16 pts
4. Kerry Johnson, El Dorado Hills, FLYC, *Blue Light Special*, 16 pts
5. Charles Witcher, Sacramento, FLYC, *Ghost*, 20 pts
6. Steve Galeria, Lincoln, FLYC, *2 Slick*, 18 pts
7. Jeff Nelson, Folsom, FLYC, *Herkemer*, 21 pts
8. Rob Cram, Rocklin, FLYC, *Equilibrium*, 33 pts
9. Mack Bishop, Folsom, 34 pts
10. Tim Loomis, Fairfield, Sacramento SC, 41 pts
11. Bob Baltar, Folsom, FLYC, *Bob's Banshee*, 41 pts

Santana 20 (3 races, no throwouts)

1. Glen Hughes, Eugene, OR, Eugene YC, *60 Grit*, 4 pts
2. Mark Werder, Folsom, FLYC, *2-step*, 8 pts
3. David Montgomery, Folsom, FLYC, *Journey*, 12 pts
4. Suna Kneisley, Sacramento, FLYC, *Reaction*, 16 pts

Catalina 22 (3 races, no throwouts)

1. Donald Hare, Roseville, Gold Country YC, *No Cat Hare*, 4 pts
2. Michael Rayfuse, Sacramento, FLYC, *Sirius*, 10 pts
3. Jim Sinclair, Roseville, Catalina 22 Flt 4, *Running With Scissors*, 12 pts
4. Dennis Barry, Nevada City, GCYC, *Kukana Luka*, 14 pts

Open Keel (3 races, no throwouts)

1. Rob Koch, Sacramento, J-22, FLYC, Poco-a-Poco, 4 pts
2. Phil Hodgson, Rescue, Wavelength 24, FLYC, Te Natura, 8 pts
3. Barry Curran, Folsom, Catalina 250, Malahat, 15 pts
4. Steve Young, Auburn, Hunter 23.5, FLYC, Puravida, 17 pts

Open Centerboard (*4 races, no throwouts*)

1. Steve Lowry, Santa Rosa, RYC, Daysailer, *Flight Risk*, 4 pts
2. George Heintz, Sacramento, FLYC, Johnson 18, 9 pts
3. Steve Mehl, Indio, San Diego Sunfish Flt, Sunfish, 11 pts

Open Multi-Hull (*4 races, no throwouts*)

1. Jon Kim, Granite Bay, FLYC, Corsair F24-II, *After You*, 4 pts
2. Troy Szabo, Sacramento, Hobie Flt 2, Hobie Tiger, *Sea Moose*, 9 pts
3. Brett Peterson, St. Helena, Hobie Flt 2, Hobie Tiger, *Ejection Seat*, 11 pts

Model Sailboat Classes

J Boats (*10 races, 1 throwout*)

1. Marty Lawson, Sacramento MYC, 9 pts
2. John Heinrich, SMYC, 17 pts
3. Dan Robinson, SMYC, 34 pts
4. Bob Eager, Elk Grove MYC, DNS
5. Gene Novak, SMYC, DNS
6. Neal Richmond, EGMYC, DNS

Santa Barbara (*5 races, no throwouts*)

1. Steve Bechtold, SMYC, 9 pts
2. Gene Novak, SMYC, 10 pts
3. Dan Robinson, SMYC, 18 pts
4. Steve Vaczovsky, SMYC, 23 pts
5. Greg Fletcher, SMYC, 31 pts
6. Neal Richmond, EGMYC, 37 pts
7. Rob Weaver, San Francisco MYC, 39 pts
8. Bob Eager, EGMYC, 43 pts
9. John Poimiroo, SMYC, 44 pts
10. Bill Meillier, SMYC, 46 pts
11. Marty Lawson, SMYC, 51 pts
12. Brian Thompson, EGMYC,

(30)

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<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1frsdpvebrv27km/AABedJkJj4goKH3rH9BkEC7ya?dl=0>