

HIGH SIERRA REGATTA 2009

Huntington Lake, California

July 11 - 12, 2009



Huntington Lake could very well be the most perfect sailing lake on Planet Earth. It is located just below the alpine level at 7,000 feet in the High Sierras, about 90 minutes northeast of Fresno. The lake is approximately seven miles long and one mile wide and is oriented west to east along its length. On most summer days, hot temperatures in the valley below generate excellent wind conditions on the lake. And at almost precisely 10 a.m. each morning, the wind starts spreading across the perfectly calm lake and builds to a good 10 to 12 knots by the time the first gun fires at 10:55 a.m.

For the last fifty-six years, the Fresno Yacht Club has hosted the High Sierra Regatta, which has always been one of the most popular sailing events in California. Because of the large number of entries, the regatta is sailed over two weekends, with the centerboard boats sailing on the first weekend and the keelboats on the second weekend. Fleet sizes are limited to a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 30 boats, and the Forest Service limits the number of boats to 150 per weekend.

Because the lake is long and narrow and very deep, the yacht club sets marks along the edges of the lake and sends the racers on exciting courses that zigzag up and down the lake. With 20 boats sailing in the Lido As and 17 in the Lido Bs, the Lido 14 class was the largest fleet sailing; and all 37 started together. They sailed courses #2, #4, and #7 this year – a relatively short course for race 1, an extra long course for race 2, and a medium course for race 3 on Sunday. Course #4 (shown on the chart below) is the longest and gave the fleet a long weather leg to the first mark, several reaching and running legs down to the lower end of the lake, and a good beat back to weather to the finish. These courses are a welcome change from the windward/leeward races we see at most venues. And because Course #4 covers the whole lake, this course also offers challenging changes in wind velocity and direction.

Competition was tight in both fleets, with the final scores being almost exactly equal. Stuart Robertson won the As with 5 points total, and Chris Lockwood won the Bs with 4 points. The first five finishers in each fleet are listed below. Complete results can be found on the yacht club website – www.fresnoyachtclub.org.

RESULTS:

LIDO 14 As			Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Total
1st	2511	Stuart Robertson	1	1	3	5
2nd	4790	Mark Ryan	2	3	1	6
3rd	6240	Kurt Weise	4	4	5	13
4th	6300	John Papadopoulos	8	2	4	14
5th	5036	Kelly Cantley	5	7	6	18

LIDO 14 Bs			Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Total
1st	5050	Chris Lockwood	1	2	1	4
2nd	960	Jonathan Carroll	3	1	2	6
3rd	6166	Butch Michel	5	5	3	13
4th	6277	Paul Makleiski	4	4	6	14
5th	6337	Charles Smith	2	8	5	15

Course #4 – Start, 5, 2s, 6, 1s, 7, 8

