



LAKE PIRU REGATTA: MAY 1-2, 2010

After a winter of abundant rains the foothills leading to lake Piru were spectacularly beautiful, green and full of flowers, as opposed to the typical California dried-out brown. Lake Piru, after years of draught and low water, was filling up rapidly from the snow melt of the higher mountains.

The surrounding mountains were also green and the tracks running along one side of the lake leading to the launching site at the end of the lake were full of birds, rabbits and other wild life, watched from overhead by soaring hawks.

The mountain winds, on the Friday before the regatta, had been extreme, causing 4-foot waves and concern as to the feasibility of sailing. However, Saturday morning started mild with light winds from the West. By the time we were on the water the winds were very strong and most boats tucked themselves into a protected bay waiting for the start. Just before the first start, the wind reversed itself 180°.

The Lido 14's started 2nd and had a beat to the windward mark, a reach to the next mark, a run to the leeward mark and a beat back to the finish. Just after rounding the reaching mark the wind suddenly died. For five minutes very light puffs went round in 360° circles and then filled in rapidly from the West turning the run into another beat. Unfortunately the wind also varied direction, shifting dramatically as much as 15°, leaving one on a reach one minute and the jib backed the next, which in high winds tends to be therapeutic. On the run, the wind shifts also caused some wild involuntary jibes resulting in bruises to both Dave Carroll's and Peter Beale's crews. There were three races on Saturday, and everyone retired ashore exhausted from hiking out for three hours of sailing.

The camping site is set in the olive groves of an old ranch and is beautiful. The park rangers sell firewood, and so there was one major camp fire where everyone collected to BBQ and chat, and then afterward individual fires were lit. Sunday morning started with the smell of freshly brewed coffee and eggs and bacon cooking. Some went to the lakeside cafe for breakfast.

The forecast for Sunday was for the normal prevailing Westerly winds, and initially it was correct. However, again just before the first start, the wind turned to the East and was gusting to the point that a number of boats stayed on shore.

The Lidos out on the water were planing back and forth across the lake but there was so much spray that the boats were filling up with water, and the crews were getting soaked so we sheltered in the cove waiting for the start. How many sailors have experienced high speed planing in our heavy old Lidos?

Shortly after the start of the first race a gust hit a Holder 20, capsizing it and tossing Commodore Bonnie Coleman and Ralph Middleton into the water; the boat then righted itself and started sailing away. Fortunately there was another boat nearby with two experienced sailors on board, so one jumped onto the Holder while the rescue boat helped Bonnie and Ralph back to their boat, where they completed the race.

There were two races on Sunday and the winds were on the edge of survivability, but great fun. In the second race, another 180° wind turn caused little or no reduction in speed. Steve Vincent and Nora capsized just after the wind direction change but righted the boat and finished the race. The race was summed up by the sign Mark Ryan held up at the award ceremony, "We survived Lake Piru".

This is really a great regatta!

From Peter Beale

LIDO 14 CLASS				
SAIL NO.	BOAT NAME	SKIPPER	TOTAL POINTS FOR 5 RACES	PLACE
4790	Cruis'n' Los'n	Mark Ryan	5	1st
6274	Pulce	Peter Beale	13	2nd
2803	Ragtime	Steve Vincent	15	3rd
4682	Wood Wind	Dave Carroll	20	4th
3726	Raphro	Steve Potter	28	5th
6195	Cat N the Hat	Tom Estlon	35	6th

DAYSAILER CLASS				
2879	Protest	Kevin Williams	6	1st
3018	Student Driver	Dawn Hunt singer	11	2nd
1631	Slow Children at Play	John Krosso	17	3rd
163	Beach Party	Carlton Smith	24	4th
4091	A Murcita	Todd Hansen	28	5th
1942	Full Circle	Bill Haisman	32	6th

HOLDER AND PHRF CLASS				
USA 34	Snake Eyes	Glenn Van Heel	6	1st
54	Water Rat	Nigel Brownett	13	2nd
46139	Problem Child	Ray Van Heel	15	3rd
83327	Yellow Submarine	Steve Langton	20	4th
18057	No Name	Ralph Middleton	27	5th
67160	Never 2 Late	Wayne Shook	30	6th
212	Cetan	Shane Weeks	31	7th

OPTIMIST CLASS				
17123	Penguin	Devin Nordeng	7	1st
6	Blazing Inferno	Braedon Baum	16	2nd
11632	Fire Fly	Jacob Mabee	20	3rd
14860	Move It Move It	Andrew Monroe	23	4th
15066		J. T. Krosso	29	5th
5		Bianca Van Hemert	35	6th