

# WIND WORDS

Newsletter of the Convair Sailing Club

April • 2024

## Ensign Racing Begins!

The 2024 Ensign racing season is officially underway having completed the first race of the season on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

It was a great day for racing with strong winds and blue skies. All six Ensigns made it to the first turn at roughly the same time but began to spread out during the first downwind leg. The boats seemed to find different wind conditions even close to one another. Gaining an edge was challenging.

The first upwind tack was fast! Many of the boats were rounding the mark at close to the same time. At the beginning of the second downwind run the E 2 got a bit of luck from favorable wind conditions and pulled ahead. The other Ensigns began a relentless pursuit, gaining and losing ground on the downwind leg, but consistently

*Continued on Page 4, Column 1.*

## Ensign Race Results

Boat	Skipper	SAT 16 Mar	SAT 20 Apr	SAT 18 May	SAT 15 June	SAT 20 July	SAT 17 Aug	Ocean 21 Sep	SAT 19 Oct	Throw Out Adjust	Total
2	Tracy	1									1.0
192	Terry	2									2.0
323	Paul	4									4.0
453	Bob	3									3.0
722	Frank	5									5.0
1122	Hector	6									6.0

Series Scoring: Lowest total score for series wins

## Victory Race Results

Sandy Leon reported that Victory Races were held on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. “There were no whitecaps and conditions were favorable for great racing”. All in all, a great day on the bay!

*Continued on Page 3, Column 3.*



## New Guy On The Boat

The 323 welcomes Tom Bedford, it’s latest crew member and the only new addition to the Ensign racing roster this year. Tom’s job on the team will be handling spinaker duties.

The 323 offers some challenges in this area. It was designed with-



out a pulpit and has no mechanism for retracting the Jib. They

Tom joined Paul who took his crew out for a practice sail on Saturday.

*Continued on Page 3, Column 1.*

## Opening Day BBQ!

April 27<sup>th</sup>

## Mark Your Calendars!

The Opening Day BBQ is just a few weeks away. We’ll send more details in an email later this month.

*Save the date.*

**It’s going to be great!**

# Can you hand me that toolbox?

## Something Went Wrong Out On The Bay

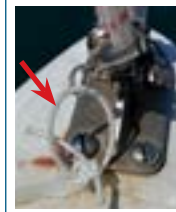
Repairs were needed to the V633 on Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup>. A steel braided cable came loose and traveled to the pulley assembly at the top of the mast. When the mast was lowered they discovered that the reinforced loop at the end of the halyard had turned sideways so that it was too wide to travel through the narrow gap in the assembly. This was all that prevented it from pulling completely free of the mast. Repairs were performed by Dan Batista, Tom Bedford, Rajeev Jain and Sandy Leon. Sandy and Rajeev completed the work just before dark. *Thanks guys!* 🍷

Starting in February we added this new column on what members are doing to fix things that are broken.

There are many ways to lend a hand. Some are simple and quick, others require skills you can learn on the job. It's a great way to meet your fellow members!

## See It, Fix It: Simple Repairs You Can Do On The Fly

Some repairs are straight forward and can be done in a few seconds. Here are some examples:



Susan Macdonald added a quick release line to the jib halyard shackle on the Victory she sailed last Thursday. It's hard to release without the string.



Susan Macdonald and Tom Bedford secured a loose quick-release line on a whisker pole by attaching it with tape.

This is a great example of a repair that is quick, effective *and* reversible.

*Continued on Page 3, Column 1.*



Repairs on the broken pulley assembly took place after the 22 foot mast was lowered. Repairs included removing and replacing most of the assembly, a project that took all afternoon and was completed at sunset.



Here's part of the problem. The arrow points to one of the braided cables that is crossing over the divider separating the pulleys. Apparently, its not suppose to do that.

Continued from Page 2, Column 2.

ible. When they were using the whisker pole, the loose quick-release line got tangled inside the quick-release hook, making it difficult to release from the mast.

Using tape for this repair made the whisker pole safe to use but also allows the boat captain to repair it differently later on.

If you do a similar repair, **share it with us** so we can pass it along to the club. Text **"I Fixed It"** to 760-533-8706 along with a photo and a quick explanation.

Thanks guys! 🏆

**Important note:** Convair Sailing Club appreciates member volunteer activities and work on our boats. To receive credit for the repair, please list your on-site Maintenance Hours in the Sign In Log as type MA for Maintenance, Give a description of what was done, listing the boat number, and the start/end time so that you will receive corresponding sailing credits.

## March Standings.

### Cumulative Champ 2024 March

Skipper	Place	Points
Sandy Leon	1	4
Terry Edlund	2	10
Joe Curran	3	14
John K / Joe R	3	14
Ryan Drobek	5	15
Bruce / Robert	6	17
James Walker	7	18
Doug Bass	8	19
Craig Unger	9	20
Dan Battiste	10	23
Bob Lewis	11	27
Greg Roberts	12	28
Tabor's Pirates	13	32
Tom Bedford	13	32
Fred MacDougall	15	33
Peter Wells	16	39
Hugo Day	17	46
Gregory Herbster	18	47
Jack Cabeen	18	47
Fernando Valera	20	49
J Otto / D Gayon	20	49

Continued from Page 1, Column 2.

The latest word is that, starting this year, Victory racing will consist of three groups. The "D" group was discontinued based on the number of teams competing.

Results for the March 2-3 races are listed to the left. 🏆



Continued from Page 1, Column 2.

do have one somewhat unique feature, the ability to adjust the spinnaker pole on-the-fly.

Tom spent time on the dock the Wednesdays before and after the March 16th race dry-running strategies. He said things went well during the March race. 🏆



Tom, seen here adjusting the down haul and topping lift from the cockpit.



Continued from Page 1, Column 1.

grinding away the distance as they tacked upwind. In the last quarter mile the gap was largely closed. Most of the boats chose favorable winds in the middle of the bay. The E 192 elected to hug the southern edge of Harbor Island near Tom Ham's Lighthouse while the E 2 tacked away toward what they hoped would be stronger winds south west of the outlet. From both boats, it looked like the other would win.

*"The entire Ensign fleet has become more competitive in the past two years"* Tracy Williams observed, *"Starts are faster, the gaps between boats are shorter. It's going to be a challenging year."*

**It was a great start to the 2024 season!** 📌



This selfie, shot from the foredeck of the E2 a third of the way along the second down wind run, shows the challenge faced by the rest of the fleet.

### What's Going On?



**T**hese Victories are practicing a synchronized sailing exercise. They have to maneuver past each other in close quarters (see diagram). The objective of this (and other maneuvers) is to hone boat handling skills.

*"It took a week to get use to, but I didn't hit anybody and I learned a lot about how to maneuver my boat to exactly where I wanted it"* said menace to navigation, Jeff Nelson.

After the exercises, we run a set of four races. If you want to give it a try, contact Harry Smith [sailho@live.com](mailto:sailho@live.com) for details. 📌



This diagram shows one of several patterns we run each Thursday.

## Convair Sailing Club Board of Directors

- Commodore..... Sandy Leon
- Vice Commodore..... Tracy Williams
- Rear Commodore..... *Open*. Tracy Williams (interim only)
- Secretary..... Bob Keefe
- Treasurer..... Rich Gadek
- Director..... Paul Feldon
- Director..... Bill Burch
- Director..... Doug Bass
- Fleet Captain..... *Open*
- Port Captain..... Mark Sutton
- Chief of Racing..... Sandy Leon
- Chief of Instruction..... Robert Skillings

### Lost & Found



**T**his priceless Fabergé egg was found on one of the Ensigns on Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>. It is in the dock-side box. **But seriously, several real Lost & Found items remain in the dock side box after having been reported in WindWords since December. If you lost anything, be it a jacket, hat, even a priceless collector's item, let us know. We'll report lost items right here.**

Same for things you find: Text *"Lost & Found"* with a photo to 760-533-8706 to post it in WindWords. 📌

### Helpful Info.

**Convair Web Site:**  
<https://convairsailingclub.com/contact/>

**Convair Sailing Club on Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/ConvairSailing>

**Convair Address:**  
Convair Sailing Club  
P.O. Box 22981  
San Diego, CA 92192-2981

**Coast Guard Safety:**  
<http://www.uscgboating.org> 📌