



## REDONDO BEACH YACHT CLUB

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## Sail Tails

### From the Helm

**From our Ace Correspondent, Russ Wasden on the scene in San Diego the first hand story of "Hot Rums" victory (again).**

Hi Mickey,

Here is my report on San Diego Yacht Club's Yachting Cup May 2-3:

Hot Rum managed to score 5 firsts in 5 races in a class of 8 boats. On the water it was a little closer than the score looks, but it was one of those regattas where just about everything went well for the CF33.

During the first race or two the Hot Rum crew appeared more practiced than the competition in their starting and boathandling, showing the benefit of racing at a club that has more races earlier in the year. The boathandling on other boats in Division 5 appeared to improve as the weekend progressed. But it was too little too late as Hot Rum also continued to improve, using their strong starting and early lead in points as a buffer allowing for more conservative sailing in the stronger winds of the second day.

The Hot Rum crew were--

Al Castillon, Merry Cheers, Brian Folkman, Tom Pacheco, Richard Parlette ("Chewy"), Rudy Reynosa, and Russ Wasden

Jim Sharp made an appearance on Sunday.

Richard and Brian traded roles between driving and trimming. Tom and Rudy, on bow and mast respectively, deftly handled a number of situations that for most other foredeck crews would have ended in disaster. Merry's back up provided the crucial margin of safety that enabled their success.

The race location for the Division 5 fleet was venue B, the "Near Roads", shared with the Division 4 and J-105 fleets.

Conditions on Saturday were a sunny 8 knots with heavy kelp for the first race starting at 12:30, 9-13 for the second and 10-14 for the third with gathering cloud cover. The kelp cleared as the day went on, which is a good thing as Hot Rum started the first race with a crew hanging over the side removing kelp from the rudder. Hot Rum began the day with the #1 genoa and finished up showing the #2.

Sunday saw 9-13 knots for race four starting at 11:30, and 10-16+ for the final, with skies mostly sunny. Viewers on the replica of the schooner America saw Hot Rum fly the #2 genoa in race four, switching gears to the #3 jib and heavy spinnaker for the final race. Some of the other boats gave the gallery spectacular examples of what can go wrong during heavy-air spinnaker takedowns.

In all, the weekend was a beating: Sore muscles throughout the body from working hard on the boat in solid weather, and sore muscles in the face from smiling so much.

Russ