



2006 Lido 14 Class Championship Regatta

Huntington Lake, Calif.

July 10-12, 2006



Sponsored by Lido Fleet 6/Alamitos Bay



Hosted by Fresno Yacht Club

July 10, 2006

Jenkins leads 'squirrelly' qualifying day for Lido 14s

HUNTINGTON LAKE, Calif.---Even this long and pristine alpine pond popular for its reliable one-way breeze compared to other inland waters will occasionally rear up and "act like a lake," as former champion John Papadopoulos warned heading into the 49th Lido 14 Class Championship Regatta Monday.

"I don't remember it being this squirrelly," said Kurt Wiese of Newport Beach, whose 2-3-4 finishes with his wife Anne as crew put him two points behind Tom Jenkins and crew Christina Campolmi (3-1-3) of Morro Bay in the three qualifying races that separated the 46-boat fleet---equal to the largest since 1989---into Gold and Silver classes.

Not only was the left side of the seven-mile-long lake no longer a sure thing, Wiese said, but "the wind would completely shut off" at times."

While Jenkins, Papadopoulos with crew Greg Rodgers and surprise class newcomers Walter and Terry Johnson of Signal Hill, Calif. won the three races, the results won't count in the championship showdown unless the race committee is unable to run only two of the five scheduled races over the next two days, an unlikely prospect here.

Following two days of invigorating sailing for a variety of classes, including Lidos, in the Fresno Yacht Club's annual High Sierra Regatta, the wind Monday was mostly 10-15 knots straight down the lake from the dam at the west end but was also rife with shifts and lulls. After an admittedly conservative 17th-place first race and then chasing Jenkins to his first place in Race 2, the Johnson launched off the line at the pin end in Race 3 like Discovery and locked into the highly touted left side of the lake, unfazed that almost everybody else---surprise!---was going right.

Wiese said, "We were headed so far east of the Boy Scout camp [the usual target on the south shore] that the only thing to do was tack."

Qualifying Leaders



Tom Jenkins & Christina Campolmi

Other qualifying race winners



Walter and Terry Johnson



John Papadopoulos & Greg Rogers

Qualifying Runners-up

But halfway to the weather mark the wind on the right wheezed down to a zephyr, while the Johnsons powered into first place from the left, crossed the fleet by the length of a football field and went on to win by 2 ½ minutes---a monstrous margin in this talented fleet.

In recent years Walter Johnson has been better known as a successful big boat helmsman around Southern California. He bought his Lido just this summer and this is his first regatta.

"It's nice to get back in dinghies," he said. "I sailed a lot of small boats in college on the Long Beach State team. It's nice because you don't have so many people and things going on that can go wrong."

Or, as Terry said, "You're in control of your own destiny."

It may get tougher the next two days. There was a question of how seriously some of the lead players were sailing Monday. Stu Robertson, the double defending champion from Huntington Beach, was already automatically seeded into the Gold fleet but was in the middle of the action all day (4-11-2), at times appearing to be testing the waters.

The Wieses were using old sails---the dated Lido models with small windows in the jib and main---saving his best for the main event.

"It may not make much difference," he said. "Some of the others probably did the same thing."

The results split the boats into 23 each in the Gold and Silver fleets, which will sail separately from now on.

This is the seventh Lido 14 Class Championship at Huntington Lake. Others have been sailed as far north as Sequim Bay, Wash., as far south as Club de la Pena, Mexico, and as far east as Buckeye Lake, Ohio.

Qualifying leaders:

1. Tom Jenkins/Christina Campolmi, Morro Bay, Calif., 3-1-3, 7 points.
2. Kurt and Anne Wiese, Newport Beach, 2-3-4, 9.
3. Stu Robertson/Steve Mendanhil, Huntington Beach, 4-11-2, 17.
4. Walter and Terry Johnson, Signal Hill, Calif., 17-2-1, 20.
5. John Papadopoulos/Greg Rodgers, Newport Beach, 1-12-8, 21.

Complete results: www.lido.org and www.abyc.org



Kurt and Anne Wiese

Lido 14 Class Association

*History
The boat
Past champions
...and more*



MORE INFORMATION:

www.abyc.org

www.fresnoyachtclub.org/hsrdetails.htm

www.lido14.org/

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