Santa Ana winds played havoc with local sailboat racers last weekend. On Saturday the winds blew so hard that Ventura Yacht Club had to cancel and reschedule its regatta. On Sunday, Anacapa Yacht Club was able to run the third race in the TGIS Winter Series, but it wasn’t easy.

On Sunday, the race committee had a difficult time anchoring the committee boat as 20-knot Santa Ana winds prevailed prior to the start of the race. Stiff as that breeze was, it was mild compared to the winds gusting above 40 knots on Saturday.

After starting in a 20-knot easterly, the eight boat fleet encountered wind shifts of up to 180 degrees on the way to oil rig Gina, the first mark. The wind finally settled down to a normal westerly of six to eight knots for the rest of the race.

Mike Hopper won the five-boat spinnaker class in his J-22, Majic Dragon, while Michael Lorenzen won the non-spinnaker class in his J-30, Rambunctious. The spinnaker class sailed an 8 mile course, while the three non-spinnaker boats went 6.8 miles. The finish was interesting, with Wind Dancer, Predator and Rumblewe finishing within 9 seconds of each other.

The final race in the series will be on March 15, with a skippers meeting at 11 a.m. and the race starting at 1 p.m.

Results:


SOLID BOX:
A 90-minute seminar on the U.S. Coast Guard’s Navigation Rules will be presented at Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club on Saturday. The rules apply to all boaters, both recreational and commercial. The rules were recently revised and attendees will receive
a copy of the Aug. 2014 print edition. The emphasis will be on the basic rules that every recreational boater should know and understand for safe boating.

A complimentary Continental breakfast will be provided. A $5 fee for the new navigational rules book will be charged. Open discussion will follow the seminar.

The seminar begins at 8:30 a.m. at the PCYC clubhouse at 2600 S. Harbor Boulevard in Channel Islands Harbor.

SOLID BOX:
The Ventura Sail & Power Squadron will present America’s Boating Course on Tuesday nights at Ventura Yacht Club from Feb. 10 through April 9. The course includes sessions on safety equipment; navigation rules;, light and sound signals; federal and state laws; anchoring. water sports safety; trailering and much more. The classes will be from 7 to 9 p.m. at the VYC clubhouse at 1755 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor. The cost for the course is $50. For more information contact Pat, the squadron education officer at 646-7675.

SOLID BOX:
Upcoming Sailboat Races
■ Saturday, Feb. 14, PBYC Spring Series. Hosted by Pierpont Bay Yacht Club, this is the first of a three race series. The other races are on March 7 and March 21. The entry fee is $80 for the series ($70 for U.S. Sailing members) or $30 per race ($25 for U.S. Sailing members). Skippers meetings are at 8:30 a.m. By tradition, trophies for the 2014 County High Point Standings will be presented by Richard Sharpe to the following: First place Deke Klatt in Jaded; second place Mike Hopper in Majic Dragon; third place Tom Hudson in E Ticket; fourth place Randy Alcorn in Out Patient, and fifth place John Roland in Wild Flyer. For more information, contact Race Chair Richard Countess at (818) 889-2669 or rcountess@aol.com.

■ Saturday, Sunday, Feb. 21-22, SCYA Midwinter Regatta. Hosted by Channel Islands Yacht Club, there will be four classes: J-24, Wylie Wabbit and PHRF spinnaker and non-spinnaker. Entry fee varies, depending on boat size. The skippers meeting for the J-24 class will be at 8:30 a.m. at Ventura Yacht Club. The skippers meeting for the other classes will be at 9 a.m. at Channel Islands Yacht Club. First start will be at noon both days. For more information, contact event chair Jane Thomas at (415) 518-4046 or sunglade@prodigy.net.

■ Sunday, Feb. 22, SCYA Midwinter Regatta. Hosted by Westlake Yacht Club, this event at Westlake Lake is for dingy classes including C-18, CFJ, Capri 14.2, Laser and U.S. Sabot. Entries close at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 20. Boat and trailer inspection will start at 10:30 on Sunday and continue until noon. Entry forms can be sent to Race Chair, Westlake Yacht Club, 32123 Lindero Canyon Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361.

■ Saturday, Feb. 28, Regatta Series 1. Hosted by Ventura Yacht Club, this regatta was blown out on Jan. 24 and rescheduled. It is the first of three windward-leeward regattas for PHRF spinnaker boats. Eleven boats signed up for the first regatta and more are expected in the rescheduled event. The other regattas in
the series are on April 18 and Aug. 29. Entry fee for individual regattas is $25, or $60 for the series. The skippers meetings will be at 8:30 a.m. and racing begins at 11 a.m. in the vicinity of the Mandalay buoy. For more information, contact Race Chair Stan Whisenhunt at 659-1464 or email him at Swhisenhun@aol.com.

(Fax your race announcements, results and other information to Stan Whisenhunt at 659-3058 or call him at 659-1464. His e-mail address is Swhisenhun@aol.com).