

# North American Kite Racing Championships

St. Francis Yacht Club

San Francisco, CA USA

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013

by Eric W. Due

Kite racing explodes onto the scene at Crissy Field in San Francisco, CA, USA. Today was the official start of the North American Kite Racing Championships. Once again the St. Francis Yacht Club brings world class sailors together to compete at the highest level of Kite Course Racing in a spectacular destination. Kite Racing was born here at the St. Francis Yacht Club. It continues to thrive given the support of the community and energy from the racers descending on this amazing venue.

Seventy Four registered racers start off day one in two fleets, yellow and blue with ten racers being women. The overcast day didn't dampen anyone's spirits as all the racers jockey for setting expectations for the rest of the week. The top three in the yellow fleet came down to Johnny Heineken, Adam Koch, and Brian Kender. The top three in the blue fleet came down to Riccardo Leccese, Bryan Lake, and Tomek Janiak. First and Second in each fleet were consistent with Johnny and Riccardo getting bullets in all heats and second place being tied between Koch and Lake. The top three women on day one are Erika Heineken, Catherine Dufour and Nuria Goma. As always check the official results for accuracy and protest updates.

The racers contended with regular boat traffic on the open race course. Tankers, pleasure boats, pilot boats and tourist ferries all played roles in quick decisions for the racers on the course. Yellow heat two started out with a huge tangle. Thankfully the race officials were swift in helping the downed kilters with no injuries. At one point the U.S.S Potomac steamed through the course and literally split the upwind port tack in half right after the start. The professionalism of all kilters led to clean racing despite all the moving obstacles.

Going forward it is going to be some very tight racing with only 12 points separating the top ten racers after day one. Anything can happen. The new course layout gets huge approval from racers and spectators alike. It's a two lap course with a reaching finish right to the beach. Great for racing, and beach spectators get prime viewing of the entire course and especially the finish.

If you're in the area, you are definitely going to want to come down and view the action. If you can't make it, the St. Francis Yacht Club has lined up some great media coverage. See the links below for all the up to the minute updates. A huge thanks goes out to all the officials and volunteers involved.

Stay tuned for more action on June 5<sup>th</sup>!

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Racing continues: June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 approximately 1pm

St. Francis Yacht Club Race Office website: [Race Office website](#)

Direct link to results: [Online results](#)

Livestream! By Jamy Donaldson: [Livestream!](#)

St. Francis Facebook site: [St. Francis Facebook](#)

U.S.S. Potomac site: [U.S.S. Potomac](#)

Twitter feed: [NAKRC1](#)