



**The leaders round the weather mark on Day 1 of the 18' Skiff International Regatta**



## **18' Skiff International Regatta**

**San Francisco, Calif.**

**Aug. 25-30, 2014**

**Aug. 25, 2014**

Monday's weather: Wind west 15-20k; mostly cloudy; temp 68F.  
Tuesday's forecast: Wind west 10-20k; partly cloudy; temp. 67F.

### ***Jump start turns lead from Aussie to Kiwi***

**SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.**

Runaway wins on the first day of the 13th annual 18' Skiff International Regatta Monday may have resembled the lopsided racing in the 34th America's Cup on these same tricky waters a year ago, but this time the tide turned at the starting line.

After sailing away in the first of two 6.7-nautical mile, two-lap windward-leeward races in the week-long event hosted by the St. Francis Yacht Club, Brett Van Munster's ASCC-sponsored entry from Australia placed second to Skip McCormack's Event Clothing from New Zealand---or thought he had until he hit the beach.

Then he learned that he had been called for



**Brett Van Munster leads  
Graham Catley in first race Monday**



**There's often a traffic problem**

crossing the line early and not returning to start properly.

Van Munster disagreed, saying, "We were going for the pin [end of the line]. We didn't pass the pin until three seconds after the gun."

One of his two crew, Paul Montague, agreed, noting, "We were a boat length behind."

Rivals on some of the other seven boats had mixed views, but veteran Graham Catley of New Zealand---who inherited first place overall with a pair of second places---thought ASCC may not have heard his recall hailed from the other end of the line.

"We heard the call," Catley said. "That's why we went back ... and why we were so far behind for most of the second race. They called 'ASCC'."

Catley's son Nick, 26, who is crewing for McCormack's Events Clothing, which won the second race, said, "We were closer to the line than they were."

By the end of the week it may not matter. Boats may discard their worst result after five races and two results after nine races.

Meanwhile, the senior Catley, a mature campaigner who will turn 60 next month, said his secret was "conservatism. We just planned to keep it safe today."

Skip McCormack, by the way, is reversing the America's Cup trend as skipper of a New Zealand boat. He's an American who lives in nearby Richmond, Calif.

"We're representing New Zealand well," he said, smiling.

Howie Hamlin of Long Beach, Calif., a six-

on busy San Francisco Bay



Graham Catley and crew  
prepare to launch off the beach

Hi-res versions of above photos  
attached to this email

### Past winners

- 2002 General Electric (Howard Hamlin, Mike Martin, Andy Zinn)
- 2003 RMW Marine (Rob Greenhalgh, Dan Johnson, Sam Gardner)
- 2004 Computer Assoc. (John Winning, Euan McNicol, Anthony Young)
- 2005 Pegasus (Howard Hamlin, Mike Martin, Trent Barnabas)
- 2006 Pegasus (Howard Hamlin, Mike Martin, Trent Barnabas)
- 2007 Pegasus (Howard Hamlin, Mike Martin, Paul Allen)
- 2008 Gotta Love It (Seve Jarvin, Sam Newton, Tom Clout)
- 2009 Harken (Howard Hamlin, Matt Noble, Paul Allen)
- 2010 Thurlow Fisher (Michael Coxon, Aaron Links, Trent Barnabas)
- 2011 CST Composites (Howard Hamlin, Matt Noble, Paul Allen)
- 2012 C-Tech (Alex Vallings, Chris Kitchen, Josh McCormack)
- 2013 C-Tech (Alex Vallings, Chris Kitchen, Josh McCormack)

time winner of this event, stands third at 3-5/8 after recovering from a broken jib halyard on his 10-year-old backup boat. His best boat, which he sailed to third place in the 18' European Championships earlier this month, was last reported passing through Houston, Tex. on its shipment home. He hopes to have it by Thursday.

The older boat, he said, "is not ready for San Francisco."

The boats launch off the beach bordering Crissy Field west of the host St. Francis Yacht Club. Admission is free. The schedule calls for a total of 10 races through Saturday, two per day starting at 1 p.m., except a 4 o'clock start Thursday preceding the traditional 5.3-nautical mile Ronstan Bridge to Bridge Race when they'll join a variety of boats and kiteboards for a 5:30 start under the Golden Gate.

Wednesday is designated as a reserve day.

### **The leaders**

(after 2 of 10 races)

1. Maersk Line, Graham Catley/Tom Peet/Brad Collins, Auckland Sailing Club, 2-2, 4 points.
2. Events Clothing, Skip McCormack/Nick Catley/Josh McCormack, Auckland Sailing Club/San Francisco YC, 4-1, 5.
3. CST, Howie Hamlin/Cameron McDonald/Matt McKinlay, Newport Harbor YC, 3-5, 8.

[Complete results](#)

[Event information](#)

[Class information](#)

[St. Francis Yacht Club](#)

Founded in 1927, St. Francis Yacht Club, located on San Francisco Bay near the Golden Gate Bridge, is one of the finest racing destinations in the world. Each year, the City Front and the rest of the Bay

challenges competitors of our 40+ hosted regattas with its famously unique conditions.

The Club's experienced Race Committee is a network of over 200 trained and dedicated volunteers. With a rich history of championship racing, StFYC has played host to numerous National and World Championships, along with a myriad of annual local regattas and racing series. The Club plays an influential role in the development of numerous racing handicap systems and is considered the birthplace of kiteboard course racing.

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