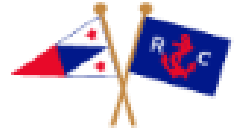




# St. Francis Yacht Club Race Committee Report



May 2021

*By Jay Dean, photos by Chris Ray and Jay Dean*

## Racing Returns!

Hello Race Committee volunteers. The most important news this month is that *we are racing again at the St. Francis!* In late April, the popular **Thursday Night Kites Series (TNKS)** kicked-off our 2021 season. The **Wednesday Evening Series** is also underway, and the **Intraclub Regatta** and **US Match Racing Championship Qualifier** events brought eager racers and volunteers out on the bay.

The schedule will be busy from this point forward. Now is the time for Race Committee volunteers to [log into Cervis](#) and sign-up for volunteer positions. If you need help with Cervis, or in choosing an event for your experience level, contact Marianne Dean, the ERC Volunteer Recruiting sub-committee head at [mqdean@gmail.com](mailto:mqdean@gmail.com).



*The first official start of the 2021 season at TNKS*

---

### ***THE INTRACLUB REGATTA – APRIL 24***

---

Twenty boats competed in this one-day, one-race event for St. Francis members in sun and a fair breeze.

A team of race committee veterans conducted the challenging “pursuit” start from the Race Deck under the leadership of PRO **Don Wieneke**. **Mitch Cihomsky** and **John Schlesinger** handled markset duties and patrolled as a safety boat.



---

***The RC Team for Intraclub (from left)***  
*Jay Dean, Marianne Dean, Don Wieneke, Moe Roddy, John Schlesinger, Mitch Cihomsky, Linda Ratterman*

*Photo by [Chris Ray](#)*

---

## New Covid Protocols:

The RC team found the new Covid Safety protocol an easy adjustment. All volunteers must submit a waiver indicating that they are aware of the risks and have no symptoms of Covid-19. The waiver is very similar to the waiver required to enter the clubhouse.

At present, the RC Team meets on the morning of the race outdoors on the dock or near the harbor office, and there are no post-race social events at the end of the day. Competitors and volunteers exchange greetings and recount the day's events outside the club at the dock

[Read the full race report on the club website](#)



*Smiles all around as Mitch and John return to the dock*

---

## US MATCH RACING CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER – MAY 1-2

---

This two-day event brought seven teams to compete head-to-head in a round-robin of 12 races each in the StFYC set of matched J/22 boats. Both days presented significant challenges to the Race Committee, as winds rose from 5 to 30 kts, and the wind direction cycled up to 30 degrees and back. The Signals Team anchored at the start line in the Cressy, and two markset boats covered the weather and leeward marks.



---

*The RC Team for USMRC - Saturday  
(Back row) Pam Zucker, Becky Ashburn, Lance Berc, Moe Roddy, Don Wieneke, , Ian McClelland, Mitch Cihomsky, Tim McCormick.  
(kneeling) Tim Styles, Jay Dean*

*Photo by [Chris Ray](#)*

---

"It was lambs to lions with wind gusting into the 30 knots on Saturday and close to the same on Sunday," said Don Wieneke. "Shifty winds allowed the PRO, **Becky Ashburn**, to demonstrate how a match race course can remain upright with great racing in all conditions. The markset group were stellar and remained focused and unflappable earning kudos for performance in the most difficult of conditions."

Congrats to **Scott Ernst** on his first Race Committee service. Welcome aboard! An experienced racer, Scott now has markset experience on his resume. **Tim McCormick** served his fifth (and sixth) volunteer day. Great job Tim!



**Race Committee Meeting on Race Day:** After an online briefing Friday evening on Zoom, the race committee meets at the dock for last minute instructions. PRO Becky Ashburn reviews expected conditions and team assignments.

**Match Racing Action Around the Cressy:** The RC Signals team is right amid the action as match racers swirl around the committee boat.

Six races were held on Saturday and another eight on Sunday, so they were always busy!

(photos by [Chris Ray](#))

[Read the full race report on the club website.](#)



**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Elvstrom/Zellerbach Regatta – May 15-16  
SpringFest – May 21-23

Wednesday Evening Series – May 19 & 26  
Thursday Night Kites – May 20

...And many more throughout the season! [Get signed up now!](#)

Questions? Contact Marianne Dean at [mqdean@gmail.com](mailto:mqdean@gmail.com)

Get [great Race Committee gear at the StFYC – RC Shop!](#) (password is “StFYCrc”)

[RC Resources and training videos: On the website!](#)

See more of [Chris Ray’s photos at crayivp.com](#)

