



# WCNA Fleet Report

## West Coast – California 2023

### Demographics

24 TOTAL sailors in Fleet	6 both social/racing sailors	2 Bay area 3 Central Coast 1 Los Angeles 1 San Diego
	18 social only sailors	50% Bay Area
	4-5 currently <i>selling</i> their boats	

### Annual Fleet Meeting

5/13/2023 during the Santa Barbara Skiff Festival. 6 in attendance

### Regattas

Mission Bay Yacht Club Cat Fight 1 -	5 boats, 1 double-handed, 6 racers
Santa Barbara Skiff Festival	6 boats, 6 racers

### Swarms:

Caregivers Sail-a-thon in Ventura, CA	2 boats/racers <i>2 cancelled at the last minute due to illness</i>
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**Demos** (none this year)

### Volunteers

Bob Shirley, Central Coast cat herder (prior to selling his boat in August)

### What are your Fleet's biggest challenges?

Fleet participation in our biggest/most-anticipated and well-attended event each summer, the Commodore's Open Classic at Lake Huntington, was cancelled this year due to camp grounds not opening in time. Late snow thaw, and drastic reduction in available camp sites caused the big squeeze. 3 years ago, a massive wildfire swept the area, devastating several camp and cabin areas. They are slowly recovering, but 50% of camp

sites are still unavailable due to a lack of resources to clear dead or burnt trees. Last year, we had a blast, but our fleet size was only 5 or 6 boats, which is down from a high of 13 to 15 several years ago. We hope next year will be better.

Our fleet continues to shrink as a number of people have dropped out of sailing, or don't engage with the group. They don't respond to calls or emails inviting them to participate. It's anyone's guess if they still have their boats.

We have five to seven owners selling or wishing to sell their boats, and not much local sailors interested in buying.

### **How can the WCNA Executive Board help you be more successful?**

Help me with ideas for how to recruit a new fleet coordinator. I'm not able to give the role the focus and energy it deserves.

Our side of the country lacks a local reseller or distributor, so there's no advertising to local eyeballs, and nobody with a vested interest in growing the fleet. I have reached out to new Weta owners with contact info shared by Stephalicious, but haven't gotten any responses.

### **Plans for 2024**

Event schedule is in the works right now. Focus is on 5 solid events March through October.

Introduction of a Season Points trophies, 1 for attending the most events, 1 for sailing the best.

2 – 3 couple swarms (Ventura? Centrally located.) inserted between regattas in the schedule

Seeking Bay Area Weta to coordinate participation in greater Northern CA.

Seeking a Central Coast Weta to coordinate participation between Monterrey and Ventura.

Big push to get all fleet members to join the West Coast / California WhatsApp group since that's probably the most effective way to engage people.

New event added to our calendar: Lake Mohave (Nevada) Hobie fleet regatta in early April.\*

\*Acting on the news that many Hobie events are opening up to non-Hobie boats—including the Lake Mohave regatta—many of us are joining the Hobie Cat association so that we can enter and participate in these events. Over the past 8-10 years, the majority of our racing has been in west coast Multihull Racing Association (MHRA) events, so joining other Hobie regattas is a natural extension.