



WCNA Fleet Report

West Coast – California 2024

Demographics

24 TOTAL sailors in Fleet 7 both social/racing sailors 2 Central Coast
1 Los Angeles
1 San Diego
1 Las Vegas

17 social only sailors 50% in Bay Area

4-5 currently *selling* their boats across the state

Annual Fleet Meeting

5/19/24 during the Santa Barbara Skiff Festival. 4 in attendance

Regattas

Lake Mohave / Hobie Regatta 4 boats, 4 racers

Santa Barbara Skiff Festival 4 boats, 4 racers

Hobie Commodore's Regatta (Huntington) 3 boats, 3 racers

Swarms:

Caregivers Sail-a-thon in Ventura, CA 2 boats/racers
1 cancelled at the last minute due to illness

Demos (none this year)

Volunteers

Bob Shirley, Central Coast cat herder (prior to selling his boat in August 2023)

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, has dwindled further. In 2022, 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. This year, only 3 of us attended, though two were first timers. All the other old timers were not able to attend for one reason or another. I will not be able to attend in 2025 but will try to get another coordinator in place before then.

Our fleet continues to shrink as several people have sold their boats, want to sell their boats, have dropped out of sailing their boats, or don't engage with the group. They don't respond to calls or emails inviting them to participate.

We have five to seven owners selling or wishing to sell their boats, but few to no local sailors interested in buying.

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

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 only one has responded.

Plans for 2024

Find a new Fleet Coordinator. Bruce needs to step down due to family and work obligations, and general burnout. No volunteers have come forward yet.

Solidify Event Calendar Focus is on 5 solid events March through October and introduce 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

Seek Bay Area fleet coordinator to foster participation in greater Northern CA.

Seek a Central Coast fleet coordinator to foster participation between Monterrey and Ventura.

Start planning 2026 West Coast Champs – either at Huntington, Santa Cruz, or Richmond.

Continue 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. Email isn't working. Nobody answers their phones.

Special Note: Acting on the news that many Hobie events are opening up to non-Hobie boats—including the Lake Mohave regatta—some of us joined the national 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.