



# WCNA Fleet Report

## West Coast – California 2026

### Demographics

23 TOTAL sailors in Fleet	6 both social/racing sailors	1 Bay Area
		2 Central Coast
		1 Los Angeles
		1 San Diego
		1 Las Vegas
	17 social only sailors	50% in Bay Area
		5-7 currently <i>selling</i> their boats across the state

### Annual Fleet Meeting

No meeting this year. We couldn't get a quorum together at any events.

### Regattas

Hobie Commodores' Classic (Huntington Lake)	3 entries, 1 attended/raced
Hobie Mile High (Huntington Lake)	3 entries, 2 attended/raced

### Swarms

Frenchie's Rum Run in Ventura, CA	3 entries, 2 raced
<i>1 more got out onto the course too late to participate</i>	

### Demos (none this year)

### Volunteers

Bob Shirley, Central Coast cat herder and prior Weta owner/sailor

Tim Corcoran, interim Fleet Coordinator Winter/Spring 2025

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

I had handed off coordinating the fleet to Tim Corcoran at the beginning of the year, but he handed it back to me when his health and vitality challenges were a hinderance.

Like last year, 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.

This year, only 3 or 4 of us attended any events.

We have 5 to 7 owners selling or wishing to sell their boats, but few or no local sailors interested in buying.

None of our Weta Fleet members hold membership at area yacht clubs, so participating in club events requires us to as to be invited, and regatta organizers want a commitment of 3-5 entries to hold a class start. Seeking a club to host a regional Weta regatta is more difficult.

### **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 none have responded.

### **Plans for 2026**

**Find a new Fleet Coordinator, or put the fleet in hiatus.** I am not able to serve in this position 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.

**2026 West Coast Champs** – With the small number of active California racers, attendance at the Huntington Lake, Santa Cruz, or Richmond multihull events for a WCC is likely going to not pan out. We should seek another Pacific Northwest location, or see if Fern Lake YC is willing to host again.

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. Although this is only marginally working for us, Email certainly isn't working, and nobody answers their phones or responds to voice mail.

### **Special Notes**

At the Hobie regattas, since Wetas were not numerous enough for our own start we were lumped into the Hobie Waves. This was not a problem once each race started. We pulled away in the first ½ mile and the two groups rarely got in each other's way.

Outside of High School and Collegiate events, class boat racing with typical 'round the buoy regattas has seen a precipitous decline in attendance in California. Growing in popularity are random leg pursuit races, where boats start in reverse order depending on one handicap rating or another. The San Diego Yacht Club's Hot Rum series, and races organized by Ventura Sailing Club have seen fleets sustained or growing, while other regattas with typical formats are struggling to attract enough entries to justify running them. This might be a way to get more Wetas—who typically are less aggressive racers—to come out to join us.

As noted last year, and acting on the news that many Hobie events are opening up to non-Hobie boats. Some of us Wetas 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.

Bruce Fleming, #276 Akahele!  
San Diego, California