

# ***18' Skiff International Regatta for the Mark Foy Trophy***



San Francisco, Calif. / Sept. 8-15, 2013

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## ***18s expect big winds for late show***

**SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.**

The Nespresso 18' International Skiff Regatta for the Mark Foy Trophy is not the main event on San Francisco Bay starting this weekend, but America's Cup spectators might like to hang around later each afternoon for a 20-boat show that may be wilder than anticipated.

St. Francis Yacht Club manages the skiff event, independent of the AC competition, while the event is being hosted in conjunction with the AC Open as part of the Summer of Sailing, taking place at the America's Cup Village on Marina Green.

The AC72s of Oracle Team USA and Emirates Team New Zealand will run the first two of their best-of-17 series at mid-day Saturday, but the 18s, originally scheduled to go off at 1:45 p.m. Pacific time daily, have been moved to 4:30 p.m. for practice racing and their serious race days Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday---10 races in all, including the traditional 5.3-nautical mile Ronstan Bridge to Bridge race late Thursday afternoon. Or evening.

Why the delay?

The 18s will be rigging and beach-launching

**Where the big breeze blows ...**



**... it may blow even bigger**

**Past winners**

from in front of the temporary grandstands on Marina Green, an AC spectator area, but not until 3 p.m. when the AC races are completed so as not to block the view.

The concern? Peak wind, according to locals, is between 4 and 6 p.m.

The 18s' reaction?

"Yikes!"

That could mean wind topping 20 knots, beyond the AC72s' stated limits.

But the 18s have raced here in bigger breeze—as much as 30 knots---and have no stated limits, although most competitors opt for a shorter rig.

Howard Hamlin, the skiff event's original organizer and six-time winner from Long Beach, Calif., noted, "We've canceled only one race in 12 years."

They usually sail out of Crissy Field west of St. Francis YC. Their 12th annual skirmish in San Francisco marks a step up in stature with the addition of the Mark Foy Trophy, a prize inspired by the vision of the Australian department store owner who in the late 19th century successfully introduced sailboat racing to a spectator audience, featuring the overpowered 18-footers.

While the JJ Giltinan regatta run annually in Sydney since 1938 is regarded as the class's world championship, the Mark Foy has gained global status entering its fifth year of spreading the skiff spirit to various world locations.

Like the AC34 competition so far and the past week's Red Bull Youth America's Cup

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)

for AC45s with New Zealand teams finishing 1-2, the skiff party also stands to be crashed by Kiwis.

Six of the boats are from New Zealand, led by last year's runaway winner, Alex Vallings. Other entries are from Australia, the UK, Germany and Denmark.

Notably, Vallings followed up last year's win at San Francisco with another in the 2012 Mark Foy on his home waters in Auckland. With Chris Kitchen and Joshua McCormack as crew, he returns to San Francisco with seven other Maersk Line NZ teams, joined by other current entries from Denmark, Germany and Great Britain.

*Nespresso* began their association with the sport of sailing as co-sponsor of Team Alinghi for the 32nd America's Cup campaign between 2004-2007, as well as being the Official Coffee to the event. In 2010, Nespresso and Wally, the world leader in yachting innovation, launched the Nespresso Cup, an international regatta exclusively for the Wally Class in Portofino, Italy, bringing together some of the world's most respected world-class sailors, to deliver one of the most aesthetically pleasing sailing regattas. America's Cup sailors Loick Peyron, Paul Cayard, Francesco De Angelis, Jochen Schuemann were the Nespresso Cup Ambassadors, adding their own individual style to this unique event.

*Nespresso* is now Proud Sponsor of Emirates Team New Zealand, challenger for the 34th America's Cup in San Francisco. More information on *Nespresso* on [www.nespresso.com](http://www.nespresso.com)

[Notice of Race, entry list, schedule and other information](#)

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