

2020 Fall Regatta (COVID Edition)

by Brian Dolan

It was hard to believe but we managed to pull off a small but great 2020 Fall Regatta in San Carlos despite the COVID mess. It also seemed especially fitting to give it go as this was the 50th Anniversary of the regatta. Tony Krauss and his RC crew did an exceptional job of orchestrating the regatta given the pandemic related obstacles they had to face. The races were run smoothly and although we only had 8 competitors on the water the race and RC could just as easily handled 30 boats. Maybe we will have that level of participation again someday. Kudos also to those who contributed their time and effort in putting together the array of commemorative items for the event; a special edition hat design courtesy of Henry Hill, masks by Audi Dolan and her friend Colleen and neck gaiters by Tony Krauss, Henry Hill again and the folks at Hoorag.

Approximately 30 members gathered for the event in one fashion or another - some for the fun, some for the race and some for the cruise that followed afterwards. I believe that all had a great time and if they were like me they actually felt safer in Mexico than they do in the US. Yes...Mexico is taking the pandemic and the necessary precautions very seriously and that is quite evident at all establishments, businesses, gas stations, toll booths and check points.

Because of the restrictions we were not allowed to host any on-shore activities other than a very minimal race registration table on Friday afternoon. I understand also that Craig Saltzman pulled off another successful trash pickup outing sometime on Friday morning.

The wind and weather for the races was light air building to about 8 knots by the afternoon with calm seas throughout the day. We could have used a bit more juice to move our heavy boat around the course but at least we were sailing and having a great time. And of course the sailing conditions on Friday for a warm up to the race were ideal as is typical.

It was also interesting to see how our Club member's shore side activities and interactions unfolded during the regatta. Every group or party had a little bubble of people within it and for the most part those bubbles were maintained and all was good as they remained isolated amongst themselves throughout the week. There was inevitably some overlapping of bubbles and in those instances it mostly appeared that safe etiquette and distancing was also being observed. Overall a great time, super great weather and a good barometer of what we might be facing in the future. I truly love it down there and if you missed it...you missed it. Hope we can do it again in May.

Additional pictures available at <http://sailsancarlos.com/2020/12/01/tucson-sailing-club-50th-anniversary-sailing-in-the-time-of-corona/> and <http://tsc2020regatta.shutterfly.com/>.





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