



Tied for tenth may not sound great, but Team Calamity felt proud nonetheless at the completion of the first J/24 Corinthian Nationals West last month in San Diego. The competition, which came from as far as Idaho, Montana, Lake Tahoe, and the Bay Area, was fierce as the 14 participating boats strived for one of the two slots available to move on and compete next year in J/24 Worlds.

Team Calamity proudly represents both TSC and AYC, and in our view, we represent all “Zonie” sailors. Skippered by past TSC Commodore and current Race Committee Chair Brian Dolan, (who is also a member of Arizona Yacht Club), Calamity is crewed by current TSC Commodore Audi Dolan on foredeck, past TSC Commodore Mark McDade in the pit, and TSC Membership Chair Jonathan Martin as trimmer. Calamity was the only Arizona boat participating in the event, and we would like to point out that despite our limited access to the water in Arizona, we beat three San Diego based boats.



The regatta was noteworthy for its outstanding ratio of women racers; 5 of 14 boats were skippered by women, and more than half featured women crew members. Still not good enough, it is fair to say, but still, this represents excellent progress for advancing toward full equity in our sport.

By the second or third race the fleet of 14 had pretty clearly fallen into two groups, A and B, and while others put their focus on winning a top spot in what was effectively an eight-boat fleet A, our ambition lay in securing a decent finish among the six member B-group. When the final results were posted, the top four boats in that six-boat grouping were bunched together in the scoring: 68 for the all-yellow Limoncello (San Diego-Cortez); 69 for the Southwestern Yacht Club all-teenager team on Boomerang; also 69 for us, Team Calamity (the grey boat in the pictures); and 70 for another San Diego-based boat, Challenger. 4 boats clustered within three points after 8 races: pretty darn tight!

One story must be shared, from the last day of the three day regatta. In the first race of the day, Team Calamity secured a strong start, middle of the line, in a strong position, as can be seen here.



While some boats set off for the right side of the course, another group stayed in the middle of the course, and Calamity maintained in that set a strong position, as can be seen here.



Benefitting from a wind shift that advantaged the left side, we seized advantage, and rounded the windward mark in a very close second behind Limoncello, the yellow San Diego based boat that we found ourselves neck and neck with during more than half the races (and finished a single point behind overall).

Spinnakers set, we were in a strong side-by-side first position with Limoncello, at the front of the fleet as can be seen here.



The view looking backwards was pretty great too; there's nothing better than seeing a large numbers of spinnakers behind you.



It was only at this point, as we savored the feeling of being in a near-first place position for the first and only time in the regatta, that we heard the radio crackle with an announcement from Race Committee. It was startling; at no point previous had Race Committee interrupted a race with a radio announcement. "J/24 Racers, J/24 racers, this is Race Committee. This race is abandoned; please discontinue racing and return to the starting line for a new start."

Devastating news, for both us and our new friends on Limoncello. Apparently, RC explained, the wind shift was beyond the accepted parameters, and the RC was obligated to abandon the race. Such a disappointment.

Nevertheless, a great time was had by all. Our great thanks go to Southwestern Yacht Club, which did a marvelous job hosting, including two full dinners, beer and wine every night, and live music. Team Calamity can't wait for the next time we get to go and race San Diego.