



Friday August 15 at 1200 hours was the start of the first race of this five race series. This first race was a twice around triangular course of 6.8 miles. The course was set up to a southerly wind, and a little down coast current was running outside (became more evident in Race 5). The boats that went to the port tack did well - rounding the first weather mark was Grether, Dave Huggins, Pax Davis, Steve Gould, Chris Gould, Pat Bradley, Austin Lysight, Jim Pattillo, Tim Condon and Hans Carmiggelt. On the second leg the breezes were light. It was a tight race to the finish line with Grether the clear cut winner. Pat Bradley with brother Tom crewing getting second. Jim Pattillo and wife Carol third, Tim Condon and Colleen fourth and Austin Lysight fifth. Then Huggins, Davis, Steve Gould, Hans Carmiggelt and Chris Gould to round out the top ten.

The second race was a 1430 start. The wind died and came up from the West in between the first and second races, working into a nice Westerly as the race progressed. The course was windward leeward twice around for a total of 6.0 miles. John Grether had an excellent start and was never headed - Pax Davis with Julie and Dave Huggins with

Mercury builder Art McLish continued their Peninsula fleet battle and second and third was theirs. Closely behind at the finish was Pat Bradley, then Steve Gould with Doug Baird for fifth and rounding out the top ten - Tim Condon, Richard Miller, Austin Lysight, Jim Pattillo and Chris Gould. At the end of the first day the standings were Grether - 1 1/2, P. Bradley - 6, Huggins - 9, Davis 9, Condon - 10.

Saturday August 16, race three. The start was at 1200 hours after a delay for several general recalls. Everybody was tense. The course was an Olympic type of 6.0 miles. Grether and Davis stayed off shore, hurting Grether a little but damaging Davis considerable. This race was very well sailed by Dave Huggins who won - followed by Tim Condon, Kelly Robinson with a great performance for third, Steve Gould fourth, Pat Bradley fifth, then Jim Bradley, Rich Miller, Chris Gould, John Hall and Lloyd Greeno.

The fourth race started at 1415 hours. The wind was up to 12-15 knots with the chop building up. The sibling rivalry of Steve and Chris Gould was underway. Steve took off with Chris close behind, so at the finish it was Steve first, Chris second, Jim Bradley

third, Rich Miller fourth, Don Whelan fifth, followed by Bill Ryon, Grether, Huggins, Condon and Pattillo. Now the score was - Huggins 17 3/4, Steve Gould 17 3/4, in a tie for first, John Grether 19 1/2 for third, Tim Condon 21, Pat Bradley 25, Chris Gould 30, Jim Bradley 23, Pax Davis 41, Austin Lysight 42 and Rich Miller 44. The tension was now a living articular thing - the National Championship of the Mercury Class Yacht Racing Association hung on one final race with at least five boats with taunt skippers and crews in contention.

Sunday morning all preparations were made for the fifth and final race of this prestigious Regatta - one small problem, no wind. Boats rafted and sent the spectator boat after beer. The 1200 hour start was postponed continuously until 1400 hours when finally a light breeze filled in from the south. John Grether was away on a fast start with Tim Condon pressing close. At the weather mark the current was running fast down the coast. Grether and Condon held high to the mark and rounded nicely. Davis was a few feet below the mark, tacked clear to round third followed by Jim Bradley. A large group followed to be pushed below the mark by the strong current. In the midst of this melee

was Pat Bradley who decided that the buoy was moving faster than he was and tried to sink it several times. However buoys always win and this one certainly scrambled up the fleet and the standings. Up ahead the race was still on between Grether and Condon, if not for the Nationals - for the John Koenig Trophy to be awarded to the winner of the last race. Grether showed CLASS in winning this, his third winning race of the series. Tim Condon was second in this race, Bradley had passed Davis for third and fourth, Kelly Robinson fifth, John Umland with crew Packy Davis, then Huggins, Whelan, Pat Bradley, and Rich Miller followed.

Seventeen different boats or almost half of the fleet finished in the top ten of a race at least once - only two boats Condon and Huggins stayed in the top ten every race. That is good competition!

Fleet participation was excellent, Santa Barbara the host fleet had nine entrants, Sausalito, Peninsula and Monterey five each. Los Angeles had four, Richmond three, Stillwater two, Fresno and Seattle one each.

John Grether won this 1975 Nationals in grand style - a combination of good boat speed and smart sailing.

Like any of our champions he deserved it.

