**3rd Annual Brouhaha Declared a good time by all.**

Once again the formula: number of captains + number of sorties > number of hours travel proved its worth. 28 captains hit the water at one point or another, we battled 14 sorties, therefore the 36 hours round trip was declared to worth it by Bob and Tyler. The Norsemen left their frozen home early Friday morning and got in late Friday night. They received the typical phone call here and there from a few of the several battlers already testing their ships at the pond. How long is your drive? You guys should be declared insane. Why doesn’t my ship work? When you get here you should help me fix it. Did you hear that so and so did this to their ship? I preemptively declare this weekend an axis victory. I softened my balsa with smurf blood this weekend, and so forth. By the time battle started on Saturday it was evident that it would be a great weekend for battling. Lots of good captains, friends, and for the first time in the 3 year history of this battle, perfect weather. Bob and Tyler did declare that it was a bit warm for their liking, with highs in the 80’s and no wind. Oh, and did I mention that there were 7 declared sinks? Jeff was having radio problems after he converted his older 75 mHz radios to 2.4 gHz. As a result, Jeff’s Mutsu declared sunk 3 times (twice in one battle), Jeff’s Fuso on loan to Brandon declared 2 times, Brian L once, Lou in Rob’s NC once. By all accounts this was the most number of declared sinks over the course of 7 battles in anyone’s recent memory.

Saturday #1: I Declare this Battle an Axis Victory

On Saturday morning by the time everyone was ready for an Axis vs Allies throw down the dense fog that had settled in overnight had lifted and instead anticipation filled the air for the first salvos after a long and dormant winter. The battle started very predictably with all of the ships in the channel stern to stern, almost as predictable as it is for Jeff to show up at the door of your hotel room at 10pm wearing only his underwear. The Jap heavy (2 Nagatos, 4 Kongos, 1 Fuso) axis fleet got off to a good start. Rob Stalnacker’s NC sank early when he forgot to turn on his pump, doesn’t take much damage when you are putting out no water. Bob and John S double teamed the Invincible until she could take no more. Soon after, John’s brand new Hiei tipped over and sank due to problems with heavy super structure that would plague his battling all weekend until he would later switch back to his tried and true Westfallen. In his own words the Hiei turns like a brick and can’t fight its way out of a brown paper bag. It sounds like a refit is in order. A while later Randy’s Frog cruiser had main battery power issues and was sidemounted to an early grave by Jeff. Jeff was also able to hammer some below’s into Tim Becket’s NC which proved to be just enough to slowly overwhelm her pump. This was the first battle with his new LIFe batteries and his ballast was a little off, so he was a bit easier to sink than normal until he moved his pump outlet on Saturday evening which seemed to solve the problem. As Tim was sinking he spun down by the port bow, leaving the stern in the air long enough to get rid of some triples into Rick King’s Deutschland as he drove past. Rick would later recall, ‘the battling was good today, I even got shot by a sinking ship.’ Also, somewhere out of camera frame and out of my memory Brandon’s Fuso and Doug’s We Vee sank. The sinkers patched and were allowed to come back in. In the Second Sortie Jeff and Tyler thought it would be a good idea to once again chase Tim until he sank. Jeff did most of the heavy lifting but the result was the same, Tim was sunk again. Though Rob decided to try the sortie with his pump on this time, it was overwhelmed by incoming water due to holes form Axis bbs. Many people contributed but as he sank Johnny ‘Lurch’ Adams was making hay much to the delight and cheers of the onlookers (there is a funny picture of Johnny’s fan section). Since he was closest as the ship sank he gets the credit for sinking him. That’s how it works. No matter who put the most holes in the ship, the one that is the closest as the sink picture is snapped gets credit for the kill. Also in the sortie Palmer’s WV, Mike M’s Erin, and DW’s VDT sank. Axis won by more than 12,000pts (29590 to 17395).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Allies** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sink Sortie |
| Tim Becket | NC | 36 | 12 | 48 | 1,2 |
| Robert Stalnacker | NC | 21 | 1 | 14 | 1,2 |
| Steve Reynolds | Vallent | 52 | 5 | 13 |  |
| Brian Lamb | Iron Duke | 56 | 11 | 12 |  |
| Tom Palmer | We Vee | 67 | 25 | 40 | 2 |
| Doug Hunt | We Vee | 50 | 14 | 36 | 1 |
| Don Cole | Iron Duke | 65 | 9 | 22 |  |
| Ron Hunt | I-Boat | 46 | 15 | 56 | 1 |
| Mike Magnus | Erin | 17 | 8 | 24 | 2 |
| Rick Whitsal | SLC | 3 | 2 | 3 |  |
| Randy Smurfy | Cruiser | 11 | 4 | 10 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Axis** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sink Sortie |
| Tyler Heland | Nagato | 26 | 3 | 19 |  |
| Jeff Lide | Mutsu | 50 | 5 | 27 |  |
| Lurch Adams | Terminal Baden | 10 | 5 | 15 |  |
| Brandon Smith | Fuso | 46 | 10 | 8 | 1 |
| John Stangel | Hiei | 18 | 6 | 21 | 1 |
| Dirty Dave | Kongo | 18 | 13 | 42 |  |
| Gerald Roberts | Hiei | 82 | 6 | 11 |  |
| Bill Byrnes | Virbus Unitis | 12 | 7 | 10 |  |
| DW Fluegel | VDT | 27 | 8 | 20 | 2 |
| Rick King | Deutschland | 13 | 2 | 3 |  |

Saturday #2: Close but no Desheeter

Since the first battle was not very close, flag/no flag fleets were drawn up by the elected admirals for the weekend: Steve Reynolds and Paul Fluegel. Battle started with Tim’s NC coming in late. Tyler’s strategy was to stay away from Jeff until his wing man made it into battle. Jeff’s strategy was to chase Tyler for the first 5 minutes of battle. Jeff did get eventually bored and went to sink some other ships. But as he was doing so he began to have transmitter problems that would never really resolve all weekend. He lost control and backed all the way across the pond and into the far bank. Right as Tyler pulled his Nagato up for some free-bees Jeff declared sunk. Later Tim pushed Bob into shore and the Kongo lost some teeth on the drive gear. As Bob was grinding up his drive system trying to get off of the shore, Tim spun and shot 7-10 salvos into Bob’s bow. He felt bad about making Bob grind up his gear so he only gave him a few holes before leaving with ammo left in the chamber. In retrospect Tim said that at Nats, he would have de-sheeted the Kongo’s bow with his triples. Other sinks were Rob’s NC, Johnny’s Baden, and John’s Hiei. For future reference, if you ever find yourself behind the video camera recording the action, never shut the camera off, ever, until the end of the sortie when they say pull ‘em off. Don’t worry, we will charge the camera in between battles and we will edit out stuff if nothing is going on. And don’t film ships sitting still on 5 when there are people blasting away in another part of the pond. Also, there is a zoom button on the thing, it’s OK to use it, but don’t over use it or leave it zoomed in for the entire battle. PS, thanks to all of those who filmed this weekend. Sinkers patched for the second sortie. The second sortie is a blur to me and the video is zoomed in way too tight so that though it has some good action, it is difficult to tell what happened as a whole, so you will get my skewed view of the battle. Tim and Tyler were working together and picking one target at a time. Brandon’s Fuso was first. At a few times they were able to corral the defenseless bow of the Fuso and stern gun it. When that became tiresome they went in for some side mounts and eventually put him down. Later they went for the Erin but were unable to do too much damage. Ron Hunt’s Invincible, Gerald’s Hiei, Wade’s Bismarck, Bill B’s VU, Rick’s Deutschland also sank. No Flag Fleet won by only 400 points (21180 to 20780). We probably should have left the fleets the same.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Flag** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sink Sortie 1 |
| Robert Stalnacker | NC | 12 | 5 | 15 | 1 |
| Jeff Lide | Mutsu | 27 | 7 | 17 | D |
| Brian Lamb | Iron Duke | 34 | 5 | 8 |  |
| Brandon Smith | Fuso | 40 | 14 | 21 | 2 |
| Ron Hunt | I-Boat | 80 | 18 | 39 | 2 |
| Mike Magnus | Erin | 54 | 6 | 24 |  |
| Bob Hoernemann | Kongo | 71 | 4 | 22 |  |
| Dirty Dave | Kongo | 65 | 9 | 9 |  |
| Gerald Roberts | Hiei | 22 | 7 | 11 | 2 |
| DW Fluegel | VDT | 13 | 5 | 8 |  |
| Rick Whitsal | SLC | 8 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Paul Fluegel | PE | 2 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **No Flag** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sink Sortie |
| Tim Becket | NC | 27 | 5 | 25 |  |
| Tyler Heland | Nagato | 50 | 11 | 26 |  |
| Wade Koehn | Bismarck | 5 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| Steve Reynolds | Vallent | 36 | 2 | 25 |  |
| Tom Palmer | We Vee | 108 | 17 | 37 |  |
| Lurch Adams | Terminal Baden | 39 | 16 | 25 | 1 |
| Lou Mezarouis | Westfalen | 6 | 4 | 6 |  |
| John Stangel | Hiei | 20 | 2 | 12 | 1,2 |
| Bill Byrnes | Virbus Unitis | 15 | 9 | 42 | 2 |
| Randy Smurfy | Cruiser | 1 | 1 | 2 |  |
| Rick King | Deutschland | 11 | 2 | 6 | 2 |

Saturday #3: When the Sun is Shining, You Make Hay

Tim was doing a great job as CD and keeping us on track for the 3rd battle of the day. You know what they say, “When the sun is shining, you make hay.” Fleets were once again reconstructed into different flag/no flag fleet. I have no idea what happened in the first sortie. Only Tim Becket’s NC sank first sortie, I think he lost a drive gear and was not moving very well, making cannon fodder for the flag fleet. He patched and returned to battle. Second sortie saw the early sinking of both Steve’s Valiant with an impressive 65-10-57 and Gerald’s Hiei, which if I remember correctly they did to each other. Later the Flag fleet sank Doug’s We Vee with 107 aboves. He was shot up in a 5 vs 1, mostly by Johnny ‘Lurch’ Adams and Brian Lamb, but Bob, Ronny, and Mike M also threw a few his way. Later in the battle the numbers were not in favor of the No Flag fleet and every time Tim and Tyler tried to get in to shoot at Bob’s Kongo, they had several ships keeping them honest. Eventually he did sink though. Jeff was once again having radio problems and came in very late to battle with his guns fully loaded while Tim and Tyler only had a few rounds left. They decided to play any way since it was the last battle of the day. Jeff was able to get several nice passes in with his starboard guns but when they ran out, Tyler was able to stay on that side of his ship for the first 2 minutes of his five. Eventually Jeff caught up to him with his port side guns and was able to get a bunch more home, but this was not enough to finish him off. As odd as it sounds, this was one of Tyler’s most memorable few minutes of battle at the Brouhaha because he was able to drive his ship hard in a defensive way and see what type of damage it could take with relatively fresh sheeting. His score was 51-13-60 and no sink. Other sinks were Brandon’s Fuso, and John S’s Westfalen. Flag Fleet won by 8175 (22000 to 13825)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Flag** |  |  |  |  | Sink In |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sink Sortie |
| Jeff Lide | Mutsu | 17 | 2 | 5 |  |
| Brian Lamb | Iron Duke | 68 | 10 | 21 |  |
| Lurch Adams | Terminal Baden | 16 | 1 | 22 |  |
| Brandon Smith | Fuso | 71 | 4 | 18 | 2 |
| Ron Hunt | I-Boat | 54 | 9 | 17 |  |
| Mike Magnus | Erin | 28 | 0 | 9 |  |
| Bob Hoernemann | Kongo | 65 | 0 | 34 | 2 |
| Gerald Roberts | Hiei | 40 | 5 | 10 | 2 |
| Rick Whitsal | SLC | 6 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **No Flag** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sink Sortie |
| Tim Becket | NC | 38 | 13 | 51 | 1 |
| Tyler Heland | Nagato | 51 | 13 | 60 |  |
| Steve Reynolds | Vallent | 65 | 10 | 57 | 2 |
| Tom Palmer | We Vee | 90 | 5 | 19 |  |
| Doug Hunt | We Vee | 107 | 4 | 26 | 2 |
| John Stangel | Westfalen | 21 | 11 | 41 | 2 |
| Randy Smurfy | Cruiser | 7 | 0 | 2 |  |
| Rick King | Deutschland | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |

Sunday #1: The Dumbest Battle Ever

Someone thought it would be a good idea to do the Japs vs the world battle. Since that would pit 6 vs 16, it was decided to give the Japs Randy’s CL and Steve R’s Valiant for a 8 vs 14battle. Randy and the Japs (kind of like that song Benny and the Jets) and Steve vs the world. Most people were not too objectionable but Bob thought it would be the dumbest battle ever. We did it anyway, shows you how much swing he has in the hobby. Before battle Jeff had brewed up a plan. We would all go shoot our ammo off really fast and then declare sunk with little damage ourselves, reload for the second sortie and do It again. This was funny at the time but it turned out to be even funnier as the weekend progressed and multiple captains (including Jeff) would end up declaring sunk after losing control. Jeff’s second and real plan was to surprise everyone (not really) and all pack into the channel and sidemount people into oblivion, since the whole fleet only carried 8 stern guns but had 20 sidemounts. As we all packed into the small channel someone noted that if it were up to Jeff, Wade wouldn’t have dug a pond, but instead just make a small channel or hot tub sized hole to battle in. It made for a lot of close action, good video and high percentage shots. The first sortie saw the sinking of DW’s VDT, John’s Westfalen, Bill’s VU , Dirty’s Kongo, Gerald’s Hiei, and the declared sinking of Brian Lamb’s Iron Duke when he became beached deep inside of the channel in the middle of the Jap fleet and decided that he would rather not resheet his ship after that sortie. Brandon’s Fuso also declared sunk when he again had transmitter issues. Second sortie sinks included Rob’s NC, Johnny’s Baden, Jeff’s Mutsu when he decided to break for open water and caught about 150 sterns from Tim and a bunch of holes from the other people. I guess he shouldn’t have left the security of the channel. Brandon’s Fuso again had transmitter issues and he declared sunk.

Surprisingly the Randy and the Japs fleet won by almost 5,000 points (27405 to 22470). The Japs forced 6 sinks and 1 declared sink while sustaining 4 sinks and 2 declared sinks. When trying to reconcile the reason for the victory, we plugged in the formula Bob uses to find shooting accuracy statistics for his ‘Nats By Numbers’ articles. It turns out that ‘the world’ fleet shot 19.45% while the Japs shot a remarkable 40.13%. At Nats the week long average has been hanging steady near 15% for several years. As a fleet, ‘the world’ made 397-68-184 holes and the Japs made 378-85-282, scoring 100 more belows than their opponents. Look out for those stern sidemounts. The Japs while fewer in numbers had 12 stern sidemounts that battle while ‘the world’ only had 9.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Flag** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sink Sortie |
| Tim Becket | NC | 37 | 8 | 34 |  |
| Robert Stalnacker | NC | 49 | 2 | 23 | 2 |
| Brian Lamb | Iron Duke | 19 | 5 | 28 | D |
| Tom Palmer | We Vee | 57 | 10 | 17 |  |
| Doug Hunt | We Vee | 29 | 1 | 11 |  |
| Don Cole | Iron Duke | 45 | 7 | 23 |  |
| Lurch Adams | Terminal Baden | 13 | 2 | 12 | 2 |
| Ron Hunt | I-Boat | 14 | 4 | 1 |  |
| Mike Magnus | Erin | 40 | 16 | 32 |  |
| Bill Byrnes | Virbus Unitis | 30 | 9 | 21 | 1 |
| DW Fluegel | VDT | 21 | 5 | 37 | 1 |
| John Stangel | Westfalen | 16 | 16 | 41 | 1,2 |
| Rick Whitsal | SLC | 6 | 0 | 2 |  |
| Rick King | Deutschland | 2 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **No Flag** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sort 1 |
| Tyler Heland | Nagato | 49 | 5 | 23 |  |
| Jeff Lide | Mutsu | 122 | 19 | 40 | 2 |
| Steve Reynolds | Vallent | 64 | 8 | 22 |  |
| Brandon Smith | Fuso | 32 | 6 | 13 | D, D |
| Bob Hoernemann | Kongo | 54 | 3 | 33 |  |
| Dirty Dave | Kongo | 33 | 13 | 25 | 1,2 |
| Gerald Roberts | Hiei | 32 | 12 | 23 | 1 |
| Randy Smurfy | Cruiser | 11 | 2 | 5 |  |

Sunday #2: Is Jeff in or out?

Fleets were again divided into flag/no flag fleets. The two fleets lined up stern to stern in the channel as usual. Early in the battle Jeff was losing control (of his ship, not his mind, well maybe that too) and declared sunk. He later regained control and was allowed to come back in. Then he lost control again, then regained control and came back in. Some interesting exchanges occurred when the fleets finally mixed it up a little and Mike’s Erin and Brandon’s Fuso tore each other up. Meanwhile Jeff and Tyler chased Tim and later Steve. Gerald went out of control but Bob and Tim didn’t have enough bbs left to finish him off. Flag nation lost Mike’s Erin in the first sortie. No flag fleet declared sunk the Mutsu and Rob’s NC, captained by Lou. Sinkers patched and came back in. Lou again lost control of Rob’s NC just as battle was called and had to pull it, not wanting to get a ship that wasn’t his trashed. Tyler found Tom’s WeVee stuck behind his sterns for what seemed like an eternity. As the dual stern guns were emptied, Paul said “Boy, he’s just leaving that there for you. How does that make you feel Tyler?” Tyler responded “I was kind of trying to save them but then I was like…well maybe not.” Gerald sank, with lots of help from Bob, not sure if he was out of control again or not. Jeff again lost control and declared sunk. He later gained control and came back in. No one could figure out if Jeff was in the battle or not. Brandon’s Fuso was badly shot up from the first sortie and did sink in the second. Steve’s Valliant went down. He said that Gerald and him had exchanged sidemounts that did most of the damage. Jeff and Tyler were opportunistic enough to find him pumping hard and remove all doubt. They next moved on to Brian’s Iron Duke and would put her down. Randy’s cruiser and John’s Westfalen also fell. Flag fleet won by 1955 points (20230 to 18275).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Flag** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sink Sortie |
| Tim Becket | NC | 27 | 7 | 20 |  |
| Steve Reynolds | Vallent | 72 | 9 | 30 | 2 |
| Brian Lamb | Iron Duke | 26 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| Tom Palmer | We Vee | 90 | 4 | 31 |  |
| Don Cole | Iron Duke | 40 | 6 | 15 |  |
| Mike Magnus | Erin | 30 | 7 | 27 | 1,2 |
| Bob Hoernemann | Kongo | 63 | 6 | 21 |  |
| Dirty Dave | Kongo | 36 | 2 | 5 |  |
| DW Fluegel | VDT | 11 | 3 | 18 |  |
| Randy Smurfy | Cruiser | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **No Flag** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sink Sortie |
| Lou Mezarouis | NC | 5 | 0 | 0 | D |
| Tyler Heland | Nagato | 25 | 8 | 13 |  |
| Jeff Lide | Mutsu | 47 | 5 | 7 | D,D |
| Doug Hunt | We Vee | 64 | 6 | 9 |  |
| Brandon Smith | Fuso | 7 | 3 | 16 | 2 |
| Ron Hunt | I-Boat | 45 | 4 | 24 |  |
| Gerald Roberts | Hiei | 46 | 11 | 23 | 2 |
| Bill Byrnes | Virbus Unitis | 15 | 3 | 6 |  |
| John Stangel | Westfalen | 20 | 7 | 25 | 2 |
| Rick Whitsal | SLC | 9 | 1 | 5 |  |
| Rick King | Deutschland | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |

Sunday #3: The Little I-Boat that Could

Once again a fast paced day let us get in a third battle. Tim and Jeff were sick of shooting each other up so they were put on the same fleet. Early on as people were jousting for position Johnny, I mean Lurch, caught Bob’s Kongo by surprise and was able to stick a bunch of haymaker in his starboard side. He blew out a big chunk of balsa or two just below the casemates at the waterline. As he pulled away the biggest one could be seen from shore. When his pump stream lit off he knew it was just a matter of time. In a remarkable turn of events, Adams was able to ‘youtube’ someone, instead of the other way around. A few minutes (and bbs) later he would sink with holes that were low in quantity but high in quality. Meanwhile John’s Westfalen and Ronnie’s Invincible tangled in the corner and the Westfalen got the wrong end of the barrel. The sortie ended with Johnny, Tim, and Doug trying to prop-wash the Erin under. It didn’t work. He didn’t have enough damage and Mike builds great deck seals. Sinkers patched. Early in the second sortie Gerald went dead in the water next to the water fall. Bob was first on scene with some sidemounts. Tyler was right behind him with some stern guns. A few team mates showed up to ward of the two Japanese battleships. Rick W’s Salt Lake City was an annoyance for 100 rounds of stern guns. As he was getting low on ammo he said “There’s only so long I can do this Gerald…and that’s it” as he ran out 3 shots later. Gerald made it off his five but right next to him, Brian L’s Iron Duke was getting caught up on shore next to Jeff’s Mutsu. The two exchanged pleasantries and the Mutsu sank. At the same moment Doug’s WeVee sank due to lots of attention and the 156-10-45 pounding that resulted. The rest of the sortie was spent working on Tim’s NC. He was having problems with a sticky throttle switch and was sunk. Next was Ronnie’s Invincible. Though many ships were still on the water to Hunt him down (pun intended) the little I-boat that could made it off the water. Flag fleet won by 6975 points (20130 to 13155)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Flag** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sink Sortie |
| Tyler Heland | Nagato | 58 | 6 | 18 |  |
| Steve Reynolds | Vallent | 51 | 15 | 13 |  |
| Brian Lamb | Iron Duke | 85 | 5 | 17 |  |
| Tom Palmer | We Vee | 42 | 2 | 10 |  |
| Don Cole | Iron Duke | 51 | 11 | 32 |  |
| Mike Magnus | Erin | 35 | 4 | 3 |  |
| Bob Hoernemann | Kongo | 20 | 1 | 12 | 1 |
| DW Fluegel | VDT |  |  |  |  |
| John Stangel | Westfalen | 24 | 6 | 27 | 1 |
| Randy Smurfy | Cruiser | 2 | 1 | 0 |  |
| Wade Koehn | Lutzow |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **No Flag** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Captain | Ship | Above | On | Below | Sink Sortie |
| Tim Becket | NC | 57 | 13 | 52 | 2 |
| Jeff Lide | Mutsu | 78 | 16 | 39 | 2 |
| Doug Hunt | We Vee | 156 | 10 | 45 | 2 |
| Lurch Adams | Terminal Baden | 15 | 1 | 9 | 2 |
| Ron Hunt | I-Boat | 47 | 6 | 21 |  |
| Gerald Roberts | Hiei | 69 | 8 | 20 | 2 |
| Rick Whitsal | SLC | 2 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Rick King | Deutschland | 4 | 0 | 0 |  |

Monday #1: Last Call

Many of the guys and their ships had had enough over the course of the 6 prior battles. A hardy few showed up on Monday to get in one last battle. Fleets were divided up into flag: Tom WeVee, Mike in Don’s Iron Duke, Bob Kirishima, Brandon Bike and no flag: Tyler Nagato, Gerald Hiei, Rick Scheer, Rick Salt Lake City, Randy Frog. The Flags concentrated on Gerald’s Hiei and put him down. The rest of the sortie was spent with Tyler bouncing between the remaining flag ships with the cruisers finishing off their ammo opportunistically. Gerald was not able to return for the second sortie, so we flipped Bob to the no flag fleet and Randy to the flag. Tom ran out of bbs first and went on five while Bob and Tyler worked on Mike. Bob was a little too eager to trade sidemounts and was sunk. At about that time Gerald’s Hiei was able to make it back out on the water. Gerald and Tyler chased the Iron Duke for the rest of the sortie but were unable to do much damage. We didn’t count or score this battle.

Time for fun in the sun was over and time for heading home was upon us. Overall it was a great weekend for battling. The weather was flawless. The level of skill of the battler’s who showed up was on average very high, which made for a relatively competitive weekend on the water when ships were working right and people were not declaring sunk. The combined hit percentage was an amazing 24.9% for the whole weekend, compared to 15% at almost every NATS for the past several years. We had two great Cajun meals at Zydeco’s and even drive through daiquiris. Wade was nice enough to have some awards made up. Kaiser Cup Paul Fluegel, Best of class 3 Rick Whitsell, Best of class 4 Bob Hoernemann, Best of class 5 Steve Reynolds, Best of class 6 Tyler Helland. You should come next year.

(That was an account of the happenings of the weekend. Names and details have been forgotten. Sorry if I talk about myself and my wing men a lot, that’s what I remember best if the video can’t help fill in the blanks. If you want your name dropped more, write an article yourself, be my wing man, or attack my ship more.)