
San Juan 21 Western Nationals 2024 - Penticton BC

Supplementary Information

Steve Blumer - February 26, 2024



Location and Geography

In the map below you'll see Penticton highlighted in red. Kelowna, the larger regional city and location of the main airport, is marked in blue, as is Vernon, which is at the north end of Okanagan Lake. Here's a link to a more detailed map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/9NwwUmB1tWZWKUoa6>



Penticton is located in south-central BC in the beautiful Okanagan Valley - the heart of Canada's wine country. It's within a day's drive of all the Pacific Northwest SJ21 fleets, and two days' drive from Central California.

The Venue



Here's the Penticton Marina / Yacht Club. You can park an RV or set up a tent there at no charge, but there's a real campground about 15 minutes away. It shouldn't be too hard to paddle in and out of the harbour if it's not too windy. But we'll have tow boats if needed.



This is the south end of the lake where we will be racing. It's absolutely gorgeous countryside surrounded by vineyards with steady thermal winds each afternoon.

The Western Nationals are on a Wednesday and Thursday. Friday is either a makeup day, if necessary, or an off day. The End-to-End Regatta, details below, is on the Saturday and Sunday to follow.

End to End Regatta (Penticton-Kelowna-Vernon) September 7-8, 2024



Calgary San Juan 21s regularly attend this event. We've scheduled the Western Nationals directly in advance of the End-to-End in the hope others will join us this year.

There are awards for each of the two approx. 27 mile legs, Penticton to Kelowna on Saturday, Kelowna to Vernon on Sunday. And an award for overall. So you if you need to travel Sunday, then race just the Saturday.



We'll be of course the slowest boats in a PHRF fleet of maybe 25 or so. But we get a generous rating. Downwind in light or moderate, we'll right there with faster boats, killing them on corrected time. Upwind? Well, even if faster boats horizon us, in the 6 - 10 knot breeze sweet spot we can be competitive on corrected time. Regardless, we'll have a great time against one another.



It's a good idea to have an outboard for 3 reasons: First, so you can motor in if the wind is too light to make it to the finish by the time limit, usually 5 PM. (In which case, results are calculated using your GPS coordinates which you call in - and which you can get using a downloaded app). Second, you get a favourable rating: All sails (jib, main and kite), 258 with motor on the transom and I think 252 without. White sails (jib and main), about 278 and 272 respectively. Third, it's a lot easier to get in and out of the huge Kelowna YC harbour, but also the much smaller Vernon YC harbour. But if you haven't a motor, someone can probably tow you.

Day 1 - Depart Penticton



We leave Penticton at the south end of the lake Saturday AM.



We sail north past Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park and stop overnight in Kelowna, which is the major city in the Okanagan Valley, with a spectacular waterfront and a yacht club that has to be seen to be believed.



Despite appearances in the photo, there's plenty of mast clearance height under the floating bridge...

Kelowna - Midpoint of the Lake and the Regatta



These two photos are of the Kelowna Yacht Club and the harbour, as seen from the adjacent park, where we moor Saturday night and can buy supper and socialize. Rather fancy for us San Juaners - but we fit in just fine nonetheless.

Within walking distance there are restaurants, lovely lakeshore parks and trendy streets with coffee shops. And if you need one, parking lots too.

Although there's neither RV parking nor camping on-site, they're available within driving distance or it's a short walk to motels. Sleeping on your boat is worth consideration, since we'll have use of the clubhouse bathrooms and showers.

Vernon - North end of the Lake and Finish



We leave Kelowna Sunday AM and finish in Vernon at the north end of the lake.

Onshore in the foreground is the Vernon YC clubhouse, where we'll feel right at home with the low key informality. There's an end of regatta meal and awards.



We figure out how to get vehicles and trailers here from Penticton, so we can conveniently pack up and drive off.



This is an End-to-End photo near the club. SJ21s do incredibly well downwind in PHRF racing. In fact, I think the two boats in the lead, the one with the all red spinnaker and the small boat to the left in front of bigger boats, are Anitra (Chris Lemke) and Battleship (Steve Blumer) respectively.

Accommodation in Penticton, Kelowna, Vernon



Probably best if you google yourself. But here's a start:

Okanagan Valley Hotels

https://www.booking.com/region/ca/okanagan-valley.en-gb.html?aid=356980&label=gog235jc-1DCAYoJOIPb2thbmFnYW4tdmFsbGV5SDNYA2gniAEBmAEJuAEHyAEN2AED6AEBiAIBqAIDuAL45vWuBsACAdICJDk1NzNIYTA3LTRjZjgtNGRkNy04ZDlkLT12ZjQyY2ZlMmFlNtgCBOACAQ&sid=b26e962e3542cc5c921bce94cc2363ed&keep_landing=1&

Okanagan Valley Camping

<https://www.hipcamp.com/en-CA/d/canada/british-columbia/okanagan-valley/camping/all>

AirBNB

<https://www.airbnb.ca/okanagan-lake-canada/stays>

Things to do in the truly gorgeous Okanagan Valley



https://www.tripadvisor.ca/Attractions-g1507204-Activities-Okanagan_Valley_British_Columbia.html

<https://www.visitpenticton.com/>

<https://destinationlesstravel.com/things-to-do-in-the-okanagan-valley-bc/>

<https://www.missionhillwinery.com/>

<https://www.tourismkelowna.com/plan/>

<https://www.tourismkelowna.com/things-to-do/farms-orchards-markets/u-pick-tips/>

Questions? Call or email me:

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