



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

- by Wesley Hodges -

Well, 2023 seems to be off to a bang. After an impressive show of wind and rain from Mother Nature we are into our winter weather pattern with some of the most beautiful sunny days, decent breezes and afternoons. The Yacht Club 'Schedule of Events' is off to a great start as well. We had a fantastic turn out for the Crab Feed & Awards Dinner held in the Great Room at the Wharfinger Building. The fresh, local crab was delicious, the room well decorated and the sailing stories abundant. It was great to see everyone enjoying a meal together and a big "Thank You" goes out to all of the volunteers that made it happen. Many hands make light work.

The event made me feel even more grateful to the members who served on the Board of Governors over the last three years and carried the Club through a challenging and uncertain moment in history. The Humboldt Yacht Club survives on a razor-thin margin between increasing costs and a membership fee that hasn't been raised in forever, and in fact, is lower than in the past due to the relaxing of an "initiation fee." Maybe the raise in beer price from \$2 to \$3 keeps us solvent? What I do know is that subtle contributions made by members on the sly are a great part of the vibe of abundance we feel at each event. Thank You to everyone who makes it happen.

HYC Racing managed to pull off 3 days of official racing in January with the start of the Single Handed Series, witnessing 4 races on Day #1. While the first 2 weekends of the Commodore's Cup saw gusts of 35+ and no boats at the starting line, the last two weekends we sailed a short course on a light wind day and a long course in perfect bay conditions. I have to say that Saturday's long course was just what the doctor ordered. It was a great opportunity for *Xwing's* crew to get to know the boat and each other as we prepare for the 2023 campaign. Watch the battle between *Sirena* and *Megahurtz* at raceqs.com/regattas/96480.

January saw some great banter in the clubhouse for Racing Rules discussions. I definitely learned a lot. Sailors enhanced their understanding of the Racing Rules of Sailing with some situational mock ups and instructional videos.

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WHISTLER

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS (Cont'd)

The more time you spend with the Rule Book open, the easier it is to find the rule you're looking for. Also keep an eye out as the 2023 Notice of Races are getting finalized and will be posted.

RACE COMMITTEE TRAINING FEBRUARY 1st!! Everyone is welcome to attend Race Committee Training. Anyone can volunteer for the race committee regardless of sailing experience. The Club Protest Committee provides support for RC Volunteers and Club Scorekeepers do the math for Time-on-Time. As long as you can read a stopwatch you qualify. RACE COMMITTEE DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO KNOW THE RACING RULES OF SAILING! It's a great opportunity to increase your knowledge with a court-side seat to the action. Please RSVP to the Commodore if you plan to attend this event as we will provide pizza and drink as a pre-thank you to all of the RC volunteers.

See you on the water, or in the Great Room for February Potluck!

Commodore Wes

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Commodore:
Wesley Hodges

Vice Commodore:
Wendy Zampardi

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Martin Stephan

Treasurer:
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Port Captain:
Will Bagnall

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Darren Weiss
Caris Cassidy
John Brown

Past Commodore:
Bridge Randall

NEW PICTURE ON THE WALL IN THE CLUBROOM!



COMMODORE'S CUP

The final four races in the Commodore's Cup series will be held on Saturdays in February (4th, 11th, 18th & 25th) starting at 1400 hrs (2pm), with the starting line between daymark #21 and the boardwalk. Sail, or watch from the shoreline -- it will be fun!

WHISTLER

WHAT! NO RIGHT OF WAY?

- from the Vice Commodore -

I often hear in the recreational boating world the term "right of way." I've even heard boating safety instructors erroneously use the term with students. But the most dangerous use I've heard and the worst offense is telling novice, soon-to-be sailors that sailboats have the "right of way."

You've probably already figured out why I find this so grievous.

First of all, if you are sailing on the West coast, its rivers, and inland lakes, there is no such thing as the "right of way." More to come on that in next months issue of the *Whistler*.

Secondly, there are about five different vessels which have precedence over a sailing vessel, many of which can introduce you and your vessel to your mortality in very short order. This too will be covered in more detail in a future issue.

And then we have another set of rules specifically for sailors when engaging other sailing vessels.

So why is the term "right of way" thrown around so often and arbitrarily? Good question, and I petition for a motion to stop.

Let take a look at ColRegs, formally known as The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972. In case you're wondering, yes, that means in bays, rivers, and lakes, too.

A portion of the introduction found on page iv of the ColRegs, locally called the rules of the road, explains part of the book's purpose. "The International Rules in this book were formalized in the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, and became effective on July 15, 1977. The Rules (commonly called 72 ColRegs) are part of the Convention, and vessels flying the flags of states ratifying the treaty are bound to the Rules. The United States has ratified this treaty and all United States flag vessels must adhere to these Rules where applicable. President Gerald R. Ford proclaimed 72 ColRegs and the Congress adopted them as the International Navigational Rules Act of 1977."

The primary objective of 72 ColRegs is to prevent collisions. So in fact, if a boating collision occurs both vessels are at fault.

Check next month's *Whistler* for a continuation of this subject.

WendyZ

WHISTLER

FINDING THE BRAVO START A HOME ON THE RANGE

- by Lou Wurd -

Editor's Note: A fellow club member asked me, with racing season beginning, whether I could reprint an old article on finding this starting/finishing line while on the water. Here is that article:

The "Bravo Start" is an imaginary line between marker #19 and the HYC flagpole, which is frequently used as the starting and finishing line of our sailboat races on Humboldt Bay.

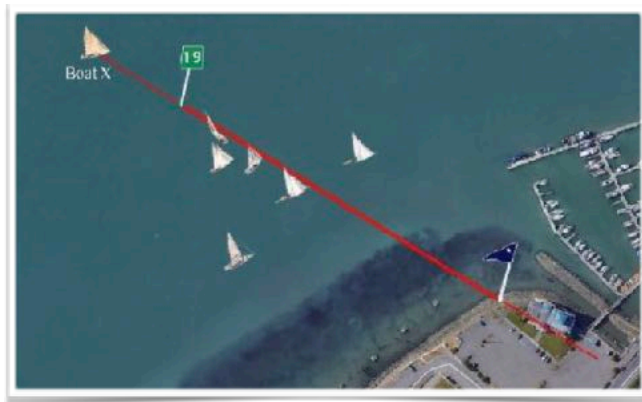
But how can you tell, when you are out on the water between #19 and the flagpole, that you are on that imaginary line? Look right, look left, are you there yet? Gone too far? Look again???

Answer - - make a home on the "range."

To make a range, you need to have two fixed objects (natural or artificial) in the distance, with one object closer than the other to your location. Any two fixed objects can be used.

If you line up those two fixtures, you have a range. In essence, a range creates an imaginary straight line over the landscape or waterscape. A range is a type of line of position - - as long as the two features remain lined up, you are somewhere along that imaginary line.

Back to the **Bravo Start**. Go out past #19 (where "Boat X" is in the photo below). Line up marker #19 and the flagpole. This is your range!



Now the important part..... the range goes on and on forever in either direction. Notice from your vantage point on "Boat X" that directly behind the flagpole, and still along that same range, is the southern-most little "MONITOR" on top of the Wharfinger building. Ah ha, three objects in a row. Keep any two lined up, and guess what?



So, when you ARE somewhere between #19 and the flagpole, line-up the flagpole and that certain little Monitor, you should have your home on the range, meaning that you are "on the line!"

WHISTLER

GREAT BAY RACE AHEAD

The first race in the Great Bay Race series will take place on February 12th, starting at 1300 hrs. The Great Bay Race is one of several races that is open to the general public.

Courses for the race vary from year to year, but generally they begin between the HYC flagpole and marker #19. Racers then head south down the bay and return back to the yacht club for the finish. This is a pursuit race so every boat has their own start time and the first on to cross the finish line is the true winner.

Note: Sailors interested in racing must attend the skippers meeting one hour before the scheduled race.



CRAB FEED & AWARDS

The annual Crab Feed and Awards Presentation took place on January 22nd in the Great Room of the Wharfinger Building. Fresh-cooked dungeness crab, spaghetti, french bread and dessert provided the backdrop to the presentation of awards for the 2022 sailboat racing season. The first-through-third place finishers in each of the series races, as well as the stand-alone races, were acknowledged for their sailing prowess and presented with a "trophy" for their accomplishments.

Aside from the racing awards, the prestigious "Stuck in the Mud" Award was presented to Mike Love, while the "Westman Award," which is presented annually by the Board of Governors to a member of the club for service above and beyond, was bestowed on Richard Hendry.



Keeping A Weather Eye:

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|---------|------------------------------------|
| Feb. 1 | Race Committee Workshop - 1800 hrs |
| Feb. 4 | Commodore's Cup - 1400 hrs |
| Feb. 4 | Social Hour - 1700 hrs |
| Feb. 10 | Potluck/Membership mtg - 1800 hrs |
| Feb. 11 | Commodore's Cup - 1400 hrs |
| Feb. 12 | Great Bay Race #1 - 1300 hrs |
| Feb. 14 | Board of Gov'nors mtg - 1800 hrs |
| Feb. 18 | Commodore's Cup - 1400 hrs |
| Feb. 25 | Commodore's Cup - 1400 hrs |

