

WHISTLER



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

- by Wesley Hodges -

Wow! An Action packed year just soared right on by like a flock of pelicans. As does the sun on the water I reflect. 2023 saw some great days for sailing and socializing. We kicked off a traditionally sleepy January with the Commodores Cup and a handful of Racing Rules Discussions, followed by the first Race Committee training which produced a new flock of RC volunteers.

The racing calendar was supported by an NOR for each series and I would say the racing season was conducted with very little controversy with only one protest hearing! I am also proud to see HYC double-down on its support for female race skippers with two days of racing in the Women at the Helm series. After the rain cleared at Redwood Regatta the wind came in and delivered some of the most pleasant conditions in Regatta memory. The sunsets were on fire!

This year brought social events back to the Great Room starting with the Crab Feed and continuing with monthly Membership Meetings. The Wickmans provided some fantastic programming for the potlucks. A handful of families joined us at Big Lagoon for the Fathers Day Campout. The sailing

that weekend was some of the best I have experienced at the lagoon in my years of sailing Hobies there.

This Fall the Fundraising Committee hoisted sail to host some great events in the clubroom including an impromptu greeting party for the flotilla of cruisers in the harbor waiting out the rough seas. The Nominating Committee drafted an impressive roster of Volunteers for next year's leadership positions and charted an epic Schedule of Events for the upcoming year.

To top off the year the Membership presented a Petition for Action to the Board of Governors and the challenge was accepted. Following our By-Laws, the Board formed a "Committee of Seven" which is set to engage with the Harbor District to develop a permanent location for the HYC Clubhouse on Woodley Island. Huzzah!!

What a year. Thanks for playing Reign of Terror with me. Time for the passing of the bell. Let's go sailing!

- Commodore Wes

WHISTLER



HUMBOLDT YACHT CLUB
P.O.Box 445, Eureka, CA 95502
humboldtyachtclub.org

2023 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Commodore:

Wesley Hodges

Vice Commodore:

Wendy Zampardi

Rear Commodore:

Bill Wickman

Secretary:

Martin Stephan

Treasurer:

Garrett Coonrod

Port Captain:

Will Bagnall

Members At Large:

Darren Weiss

Caris Cassidy

John Brown

Immediate Past Commodore:

Bridge Randall

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Richard Hendry, Editor

Gale Forsewin

Mark Rounding

Marlin Spike

Lee Braces

A WHALE TALE

- by Past Commodore Stephen Buck -

The Golden Rule was heading home. The historic 1958 Angelman ketch, restored in Humboldt Bay by the Veterans For Peace, was returning from her educational nuclear-disarmament mission on the Great Loop. Trucked back from Chicago, she arrived in Richmond, Ca. Refloat, step the masts, and systems repair and testing after her 10,000 mile voyage lay ahead. After almost two weeks in the yard, she was ready for sea, emergency equipment operable (including EPIRB, DSC-enabled VHF radio, Satellite phone, Inreach tracker, liferaft, exposure suits) masts raised, sails bent, crewed, and provisioned for the 250 miles back to Eureka. Gerry Condon, Mary Ann Van Cura, and I left the dock of KKMI boatyard at sunrise heading for the Golden Gate.

The weather window called for clear skies and southwest winds for the duration of the trip. We set out with the engine and jib making 6 knots northbound. Conditions around Cape Mendocino were expected to be favorable for our timeline. Our weather router, Leroy Zerlang approved but advised us to get off the ocean by Monday! Whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals, and seabirds were abundant along our route. While our whale identifying skills are strictly amateur level, it seemed that gray whales and humpbacks were the prevalent species.

As sundown approached, the southwest breeze stiffened causing the following seas to build. The open cockpit, tiller-steered ketch is a physically demanding boat and becomes a handful in those conditions as the boat tries to round every several waves. After sundown, I was regretting not including the phase of the moon in my calculations. It was a new moon and dark on the ocean! I asked Gerry to stand watch on the cabin top and Mary Ann at the tiller and retired to sleep a bit for the midwatch.

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A Whale Tale (Cont'd)

Several hours after I retired, as we were off Pt. Arena, I was roused by cries from the deck. Whale! A spout, witnessed by both Gerry and Mary Ann had appeared about 15 feet off the starboard beam. The crew watched as the traveling whale slid along the surface parallel to our direction of travel and sprayed its distinctive spout. As recognition dawned among the crew, the whale turned and dove in our direction dealing a glancing blow to our hull. I woke to the cries of the crew and the impact of the whale on the hull. A quick trip up to the deck to check conditions and reduce speed then down to the bilge to check for new water. No leaks found, the stout wooden hull had held against the encounter. The rudder and propeller seemed undamaged. After debriefing Mary Ann and Gerry and allowing the adrenalin to subside, we resumed our way in the night.

The whale may have been a humpback, as we had seen a fair number of them during the day. No dorsal fin was observed on the whale's back which could have helped ID the leviathan. Spout characteristics are unique to species but this spout could not be

definitive. Humpbacks can reach a weight of 40 tons and a direct blow from such a creature would surely breach the hull. We were grateful to be treated so gently!

The rest of the night passed uneventfully albeit strenuously in the stiff breeze and following seas. The next day the winds eased and we rounded Cape Mendocino in the golden hour of late afternoon. I chose to stay seaward of the Blunts Reef buoy about 4 miles off and watched as fog formed along the shore. It was fascinating to watch as a roll of fog formed at the shore, crawled over the coast range, then reached out toward us offshore. As we turned toward the entrance, it was radar and all hands on deck as the fog enveloped us.

Calls to our shore support in Humboldt Bay assured us that the entrance channel conditions were benign and the fog had not reached the harbor. With an incoming tide and a familiarity with the entrance aids to navigation, we made short work of the final leg of our trip, reaching the City Marina at 2200 Saturday night for a forty hour trip and very happy to be home.

Veterans Day Race
Three Bridges Fiasco



WHISTLER

Single-handed Keel #3



Welcome Aboard

Greg & Darlynn Niekrasz
[Olsen 25, Hunter 27]



waiting for the wind!

CHANGE OF WATCH

The 2024 Board of Governors was elected at the General Membership meeting last month and will be inducted at the Flag Officers Dinner on Dec. 8th:

Co-Commodores:

Nancy Randall

Annie McCabe

(hereinafter: "Nanjie McRandall")

Vice-Commodore:

Ed Mattson

Rear-Commodore:

Bill Wickman

Port Captain

Will Bagnall

Treasurer:

Garrett Coonrod

Co-Secretaries:

Steve Buck & John Brown

At-Large:

Darren Weiss

Caris Cassidy

Mike Bynum

Immediate Past Commodore:

Wesley Hodges

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING MOVING BACK

By popular demand, the monthly general membership meeting / potluck will be returning to the first Tuesday of each month (except January and September) starting next year. We hope to see you on Tuesday February 6th.

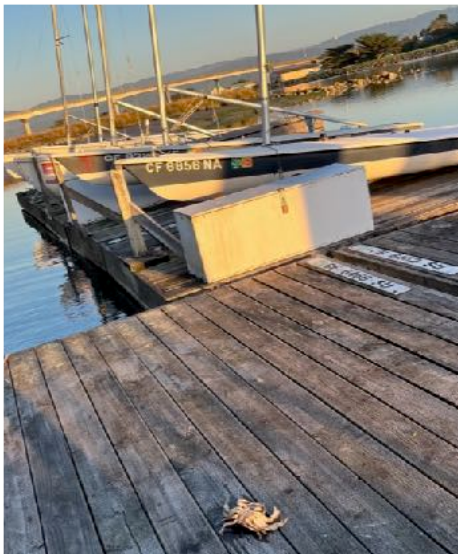


NOW HEAR THIS:

A crab found occupying the HYC Dingy Dock has not paid rent, and has subsequently been evicted to the sea, leaving spaces open for rent!

These docks, located at the foot of I dock, on the Northernmost side of the Woodley Island Marina, are available to club members only, and provide safe and sheltered access to the bay for your dinghy, kayak, or canoe, or paddleboard!

Spaces are appropriate for watercraft up to 16 feet. For rates and info, contact your Port Captain, Will, at wabagnall@gmail.com. That is all!



Keeping A Weather Eye:

Dec. 2	Social Hour - 1700 hrs
Dec. 8	Flag Officers Dinner - 1800
Dec. 12	Board of Gov'nors Mtg - 1800 hrs
Dec. 16	Lighted Boat Parade - 1800 hrs



THE WHISTLER BUOY





2024 Event Schedule

Jan. 1	1300	Around the Island Race	Jun. 29	1200	Trinidad Race North
Jan. 9	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg	Jun. 30	1200	Trinidad Race South
Jan. 17	1800	Race Training Clinic	Jul. 2	1800	Potluck
Jan. 20	1800	Crab Feed & Awards	Jul. 4	1800	Fireworks Raft-Up
Feb. 3	1300	Single-handed Keel #1	Jul. 6	1900	Sunset Sail
Feb. 6	1800	Potluck	Jul. 9	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg
Feb. 11	1300	Outboard Clinic	Jul. 20	1300	Pirate Fun Day
Feb. 13	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg	Jul. 24	1800	FOG Watch BBQ
Feb. 22	1800	Fundraiser Night	Jul. 28	1200	Whistler #3
Feb. 25	1300	Anchor Clinic	Aug. 3	1300	Women at the Helm #1
Mar. 1	tba	Bowl 4 Kids' Sake	Aug. 6	1800	Potluck
Mar. 3	1300	Great Bay Race #1	Aug. 13	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg
Mar. 5	1800	Potluck	Aug. 17	1300	Women at the Helm #2
Mar. 12	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg	Aug. 18	1300	In-Bay Dinghy #3
Mar. 21	1800	Fundraiser Night	Aug. 21	1800	FOG Watch BBQ
Mar. 23	1300	Single-handed Keel #2	Aug. 24	1000	Regatta Clean-Up
Mar. 30	1300	Clubroom Clean-Up	Aug. 24	1300	El Toro Challenge at Lagoon
Mar. 30	1300	In-Bay Dinghy #1	Aug. 31	1200	Redwood Regatta
Apr. 2	1800	Potluck	Sep. 1	1100	Redwood Regatta
Apr. 6	1300	In-Bay Keel #1	Sep. 10	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg
Apr. 6	1400	Open House	Sep. 14	1300	Great Bay Race #3
Apr. 9	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg	Sep. 29	1300	In-Bay Keel #3
Apr. 21	1300	In-Bay Dinghy #2	Oct. 1	1800	Potluck
Apr. 27	1300	In-Bay Keel #2	Oct. 5	1300	Great Bay Race #4
May 4	1300	Great Bay Race #1	Oct. 8	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg
May 7	1800	Potluck	Oct. 12	1300	In-Bay Keel #4
May. 14	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg	Oct. 27	1300	Great Bay Race #5
May 18	1400	Whistler #1	Nov. 2	1300	Single-handed Keel #3
Jun. 1	1300	Whistler #2	Nov. 5	1800	Potluck
Jun. 4	1800	Potluck	Nov. 10	1000	Planning Party
Jun. 11	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg	Nov. 11	1111	Veterans Day Race
Jun. 15	1300	Dinghy Weekend at Lagoon	Nov. 12	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg
Jun. 16	1300	Dinghy Weekend at Lagoon	Dec. 7	1300	Single-handed Keel #4
Jun. 19	1800	FOG Watch BBQ	Dec. 10	1800	Board of Governors' Mtg
			Dec. 13	1800	Flag Officers Dinner

Notes: Social Hour at clubroom on first Saturday of every month from 1700-1900 hrs.

FOG Races: are held on Saturdays at 1400 hrs from Nov to Mar; and on Wednesdays at 1800 hrs from Mar to Nov.