



COMMODORES' COMMENTS

- BY NANCY RANDALL & ANJIE MCCABE -

Happy New Year All! I hope everyone had a blessed holiday and got to enjoy quality time with family and friends. December was a great month. Thank you to all who attended the Flag Officer's dinner. It was a festive meal and thoroughly enjoyed. Our December social hour hosted by Wes and his beautiful daughter Joey started off the season. Brad and I came down to the club on the morning Saturday, December 16th and watched the annual "Salty Santa Parade" together. It was small this year and lots of ideas went through my mind for next years!



That's enough about December. Welcome to January 2024! We will start of this month with our New Year's Day, Around the Island Race. I can say in years past it has generally been a beautiful day to be on the water. This race can be done on anything that floats. Kayaks, dinghies, paddle-boards, sail boats, lasers and more! January in Humboldt can bring some surprisingly nice weather and the start to longer days.

Our Vice-Commodore Ed will be holding a Race Committee Clinic January 17th, see is article below for more info! It is an important job and the more people in

the club participating makes for better racing! Thank you, Ed, for the knowledge sharing! More details to come.

Crab? Yes! Our annual Crab and Awards Ceremony is Saturday, January 20th in the room below the big room at the Wharfinger. For those who are new to the club this is where everyone who participated in our various races throughout the last year will receive recognition. Plus, we get to eat crab! Yes, I am a crab lover and look forward to this event every year. We're always looking for volunteers so reach out to myself or Nancy if you would like to help with this one.

In this new year, our commodore envisions the yacht club as a beacon of friendship and shared seafaring tales, where every member, like a sailor navigating by the stars, contributes to the rich tapestry of our maritime haven. Last but not least we can not make our club as great as it is without the help of our members. I wanted to let you all know that in the club room is a white board that so far, our board members have signed up for upcoming Social Hours and Potlucks. If you're interested in hosting a month the next time, you're at the club sign up! If you're not sure what to do let me or Nancy know and we would love to help you out. I know when I was a new member it was a great way to get to know other sailors, and share stories.

We have a great 2024 ahead and I look forward to serving our club with my Co-Commodore Nancy! We will have plenty of fundraisers coming up and social events. In the meantime, get on the water and sail on!

Co-Commodore Anjie

WHISTLER



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Co-Commodores:
Nancy Randall & Anjie McCabe

Vice Commodore:
Ed Mattson

Rear Commodore:
Bill Wickman

Co-Secretaries:
Steve Buck & John Brown

Treasurer:
Garrett Coonrod

Port Captain:
Will Bagnall

Members At Large:
Darren Weiss
Caris Cassady
Mike Bynum

Immediate Past Commodore:
Wesley Hodges

HUMBOLDT YACHT CLUB
Post Office Box 445
Eureka, California 95502

humboldtyachtclub.org

Race Training Workshop by Vice-Commodore Ed Mattson

On January 17 at 1800 hours, the yacht club will put on a Race Training Workshop with the goal of improving everyone's sailing knowledge. The workshop is for everyone, not just racers. To paraphrase Bill Wickman, *you can learn more about sailing in one season than cruising for ten years.*

Sailboat racing is a complex, challenging sport, and I believe everyone in the club can improve their knowledge and skill. HYC has a pool of knowledge that I would like to see shared with everyone.

If you look at the perpetual trophies in the clubroom, you will see a variety of skippers and boats that were winning races. This was due in large part to the efforts of Jim Christopher, who was a world class racer, as he taught and mentor everyone interested in racing.

I have been fortunate to have been mentored by both Jim Christopher and Ed Fracker, another world class racer. I would like to share what I have learned from them with anyone interested. That being said, I do not have the talent or knowledge of either of them; therefore, I am hoping other sailors will add their input to the knowledge pool.



CRAB FEED

January 20th at 6:00 pm
Crab dinner 30\$ per person
Spaghetti dinner 15\$
Please RSVP

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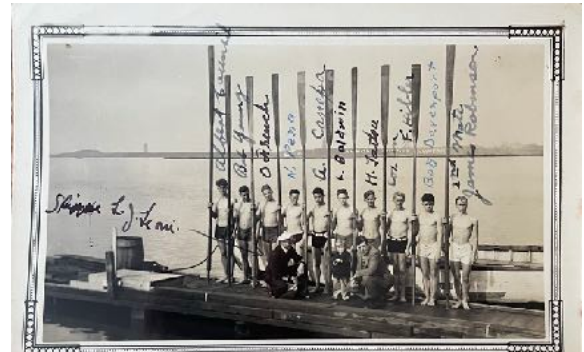
HUMBOLDT BAY SEA SCOUTS

Sea Scouts BSA is a high-adventure, co-ed maritime program for youth 14 (or 13 and graduate of 8th grade) to 20 yrs. Units are called Ships and Unit leaders are called Skippers. Sea Scouts is at its core a combination of Scouting (same old Scout value & ways of working with youth) and Seamanship (technical skills about boat operation and safety).

Sea Scouts has been part of the Boy Scouts of America since 1912 - long before there was such a thing as an Eagle Scout. Sea Scouts are just Scouts with boats, along with some different terminology and darker uniforms. This is a fully co-ed program and has been since 1971. Nationally, about 1/3 of youth Sea Scouts are girls.

Sea Scouts on Humboldt Bay go back along way. In the top picture to the right are Sea Scouts from the Eureka High School class of 1935 along with their Skipper at the dock. We also found an article on page 8 of the Humboldt Standard dated Thursday May 5, 1955, which notes that "Sea Scouts meet tonight at 7 p. m. in room 3 of Ryan Youth Center."

Currently, Sea Scout Ship 1, Yankee, has been sponsored by the Humboldt Bay Harbor District here since 1969. The unit had a hiatus for a few years around 2005, but was resurrected by club-members (and Junior Sailing Instructors) Richard Hendry and John Bradley in 2011. Your Port Captain Will Bagnall served as one the the early Skippers then, and is currently the First Mate under Skipper Eric Hall. Here are some file photos on the current Ship. Anyone interested in more information can contact the Skipper at scoutship1@gmail.com or call at (707) 702-1602.





WHISTLER

Return From Earth: Southern Cross

- by Rear Commodore Bill Wickman -

[The article below is copied from our blog posted March 4th, 2011.
I was heading back to do a few months of boat work in Malaysia and Thailand]

Leaving home felt like going to a knife fight with a feeling like a big lump of lead in the stomach. Like saddling up to go walk point in the night. Why? I don't know. Does home seem a little more precious as we get older? Janet is so sweet, if she doesn't make it to the boat any sooner than we plan it will be the longest we've ever been apart. I didn't get to see some friends I wanted to see or spend enough time with some I did. Not enough time with family. My golf game sucks. Depressing. Whatever.

It was 6AM and chilly and rainy and the Horizon Q400 I was on from Arcata to LAX was mildly uncomfortable, too cold, no pillows, no blankets, running a little late. The day before I had finally got around to putting some music on my iPod. Last season I made a disastrous botch of syncing it with the laptop. That spastic technical spasm cost me about 55 gigs of stored music, gone forever. I was looking at heading out for months with the only tune I had aboard being Bob Dylan's *"Tangled Up In Blue"*. So Janet had a bunch of music on her computer that she got from an Aussie friend in Bundaberg. I didn't even know what was there but I synced up and downloaded about 15 gigs and finally got around to looking at it on the way to LAX. Looked at 'artists', quite a nice list actually, and there was Crosby, Stills, and Nash. Looked at 'songs' and there was *"Southern Cross"*, every cruisers anthem and high on my list of greatest songs ever.

Ah yes...."Got outa town on a boat for the southern Islands"....yep, we've all done that.."sailing a reach, before a following sea" ..a good start..."she was making for the trades on the outside".....but it's not the tropics yet...."and the downhill run to Papeete"....forget the reality, is there a name which congers up more romance than "Papeete"? "off the wind on this heading lie the

Marquesas"....Fatu Hiva, one of the greatest landfalls ever..." we got eighty feet of waterline, nicely making way"....yeah, probably a big ol' wooden schooner....."in a noisy bar in Avalon I tried to call you"....wonder which one that was?....."but on a midnight watch I realized why twice you ran away"....a heartbreak....most of us have been there a time or two. And the song goes on, if you aren't familiar with it you probably aren't reading this blog. But what a song! Adventure, escape, romance, desire, mystery, heartbreak, renewal and rebirth, with an edge, what more needs to be said?

So now I'm in 'World Business Class' (read First Class) on a Delta (old Northwest) 747, a little perk from years of slaving in their service. At 35000' intense sun is coming in through the windows. I'm warm and cozy looking down on scattered cumulus and a big sea. There's plenty of wind on the surface and a well organized swell, both from the northwest. It would be a good day to make time towards Papeete. With a little luck I'll be in Malaysia and back on the boat tomorrow and beginning to begin the long planned projects. There are many trade offs in the cruising life style. There is loneliness. There are hassles and frustrations and the usual crap from life. But there is, in abundance, adventure, escape, romance, desire, mystery, rebirth and renewal. Plenty of reason to keep coming back for more and, once in awhile, singing along to *"Southern Cross"*.

Love to all,
Bill & Janet

P.S. - - There are nine years of cruising blog posts at:
airstreamvoyages.blogspot.com
and no commercialization. Give it a view if interested.

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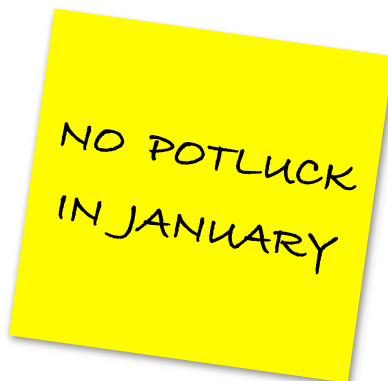
AWARDS PRESENTATION

Racing awards for 2023 will be presented at the Crab Feed on January 20th. In addition, the prestigious and highly-coveted "Westman Award" will be bestowed on the member or membership whose contribution to the club in 2023 went above and beyond the call of duty.



Newsletter Staff:

Richard Hendry, Editor
Gail Forsewin
Mark Rounding
Marlin Spyke



keeping a weather eye:

Jan. 1	Around the Island Race - 1300 hrs
Jan. 6	Social Hour - 1700 hrs
Jan. 9	Board Meeting - 1800 hrs
Jan. 17	Race Training Clinic - 1800 hrs
Jan. 20	Crab Feed & Awards - 1800 hrs

WELCOME ABOARD

Micheal Pierce
[Skipper 20']

