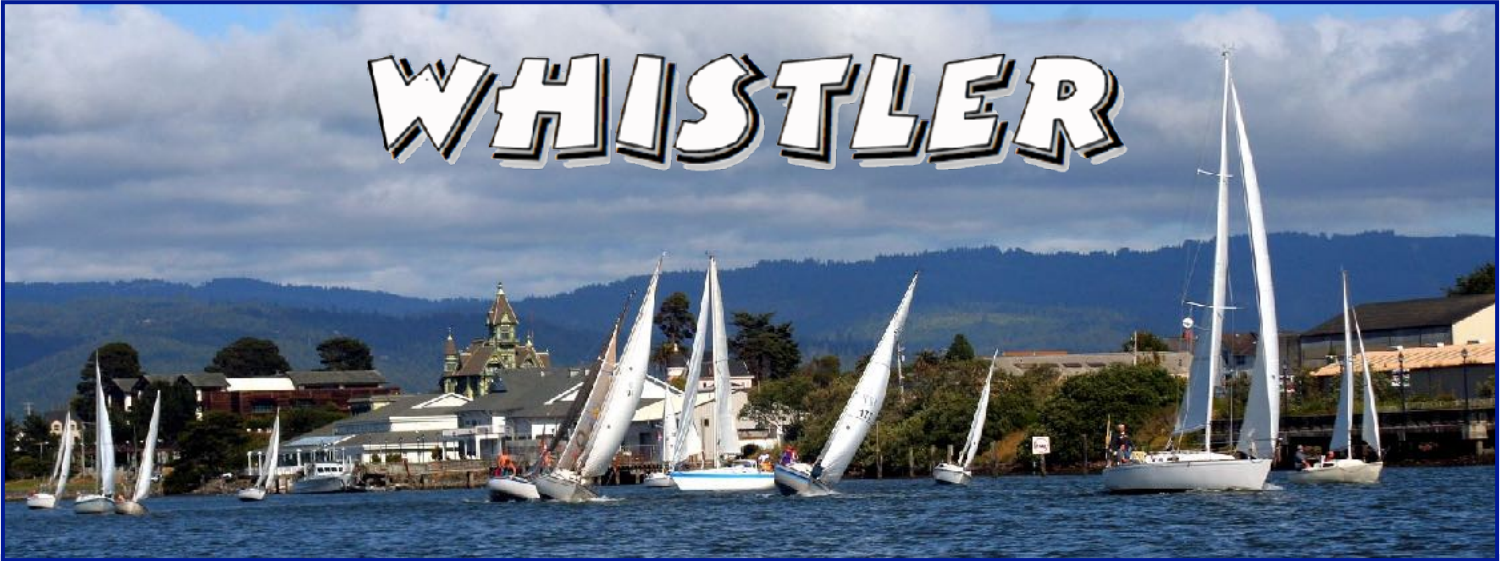


# WHISTLER



## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

- by Wesley Hodges -

Looks like we made it through an epic winter with some great days of sailing and we are on to a bit of spring where the great sailing continues. It's this time of year that my mind starts wandering up to Big Lagoon and Hobie Cat/dinghy sailing. If you don't know already, Big Lagoon is where it's at. There the wind doesn't suffer from a litany of obstructions and comes across the spit clean and consistent. Big Lagoon is a great place for a beginning sailor to get experience without the distraction of boat traffic, current, and tidal swings. Being surrounded by approachable land is also a bonus for the beginner sailor. Most mistakes can be cleaned up with a hike back to the car or a hail to a fellow sailor or kayaker. The best plan is to pack a pick-nick, sail up the spit to a secluded spot and snuggle up in the leeward side of the sand dune for a day of sunning and relaxing before sailing back to the car.

Another benefit to Big Lagoon is the boat launch. While it's best practice to have your sheets together before you leave your yard, there's ample time and space to figure things out at the ramp, provided you leave room for the other launch parties. It's not your typical

line of power boaters and fishermen's families sweating to get a boat in the water you find throughout most of America.

Aside from the sailing there's camping! County operates a great campground with warm showers and waterfront campsites. Be sure to bring the camp host a bribe of some garden veggies and tell him Wes sent me, thanks for keeping an eye on the boats. Duude will do his best to accommodate you. Dogs on leashes allowed.

**Speaking of camping**, the Humboldt Yacht Club has reserved our traditional Redwood Regatta spot for Father's Day weekend. Come up and enjoy a NO HOST weekend of environmental camping at the old Hammond Homestead. Access begins on Thursday June 15 and ends June 19.

(Continued on next page)



**HUMBOLDT YACHT CLUB**

Post Office Box 445

Eureka, California 95502

[humboldtyachtclub.org](http://humboldtyachtclub.org)

# WHISTLER

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS (Cont'd)

Saturday night we will have a campfire/potluck, so bring Grandma's Classic Recipe Cheese-bake and your travel banjo/mouth harp. HYC is also seeking to come out cash positive on this fundraiser so we are asking for a \$30 donation per campsite and feel free to book multiple campsites if you bring your friends and their friends' kids friends. Includes 5 days, 4 nights, private camping, exclusive boat launch and trailer parking, a steal of a deal. Pay on the website. Dry camping is recommended, Honey Buckets will be provided by the club. No dogs allowed. There will be some LeMans-style dinghy racing on Saturday and a Poker Run but we will leave Sunday for Dad to sleep in till the wind picks up and we beg him to take us sailing. It always blows on Father's Day. If you don't have Father's Day Weekend available to camp and go sailing then you might need to step back and take stock! See you there!

- Commodore Wes

## DISCOVERY of BIG LAGOON ?

Speaking of Big Lagoon, make sure you read the article at the end of the newsletter about how the Yacht Club first starting using our wonderful campsite.

## 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**



# WHISTLER

## MANIFEST YOUR DESTINY!

- by Past Commodore Bridge Randall -

After finalizing the purchase of our 2003 *Beneteau 393* at the eve of the new year, the saga of transport begins. Surely the last few months have been uniquely bad for a 350 nautical mile passage from Astoria, Oregon to Eureka. Multiple trips north for boat provisioning and vigorous weather watching rewarded us with a very small three day window needed for transit. Luckily that coordinated with spring break and the weather gods were merciful. Very light winds and moderate swell was better than contrary winds so it was a go!

We departed Astoria very early to make high slack tide at the Columbia River mouth at 5am. Darkness wasn't too bad but crab pots filling the channel were terrifying to dodge! The constituencies of entanglement would be horrible in the shipping lane. Finally free to turn south we motor sailed between squalls. The 10 ft swell was mostly from the west with added north west wind swell tossed us around a bit. Brad was the savior of the galley as both Will and I were a touch queasy. We headed south west to gain

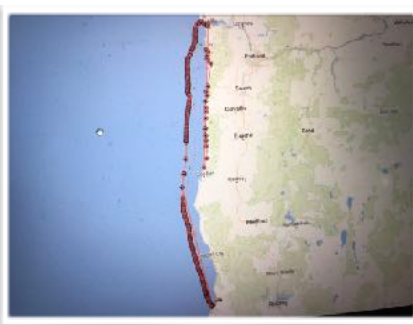
seaway approximately 15-20 miles offshore.

The second day was sunny but cold. Swell moderating and everyone feeling better. The wind had lost its power and we had to continue to motor sail to provide stability and speed. The day passed with whales maybe greys or minke passing by in pods.

Friday was wonderfully warm and sunny although very light wind and light swell. We took a break from the engine noise and sailed slowly with the sunrise. Beautiful! The tide was falling when we arrived at Humboldt Bay. Dodging crab pots, we powered through the water ebb. Suddenly our local sailing waters seemed very small, but it sure was nice to be home. Best wind of the trip! Will and Brad were critical crew and I couldn't have done it without them! Tying up in time for the potluck was bonus!

PS: the outside dock next to *Fishwish* has some seriously gnarly exposed bolts! Extra fenders required!

PSS: look for our new YouTube channel soon to be launched: SvShadowfax





# WHISTLER

## BREECHES BUOY or BOSUN'S CHAIR ?

A “**Breeches Buoy**” is a device that is basically an oversized life preserver with a pair of large canvas trousers (breeches) sewn to it. It is similar to a zip line and can extract people from wrecked vessels or transport people from one place to another in situations of danger. The breeches buoy was then hauled back empty to the ship (or place of danger) ready for the next person to be rescued.



A “**Bosun's Chair**” (or boatswain's chair) is a device used to suspend a person from a rope to perform work aloft. Originally just a short plank or swath of heavy canvas, many modern bosun's chairs incorporate safety devices similar to those found in rock climbing harnesses such as safety clips and additional lines. *(Maybe this photo isn't the best example of the use of modern-day safety features.)*



## APRIL SAILING



# WHISTLER

## VHF MARINE RADIO Digital Selective Calling (DSC)

- by Gail Forsewin -

Digital Selective Calling (DSC), allows boaters to instantly send an automatically formatted distress alert to the Coast Guard or other rescue authority anywhere in the world. Digital Selective Calling also allows boaters to initiate or receive distress, urgency, safety, and routine radiotelephone calls to or from any similarly equipped vessel or shore station, without requiring either party to be near a radio loudspeaker. DSC acts like the dial and bell of a telephone, allowing you to "direct dial" and "ring" other radios, or allowing others to "ring" you, without having to listen to a speaker. New VHF and HF radiotelephones have DSC capability.

All DSC-equipped radios, and most GPS receivers, have a data interface connector. The interface allows most models of GPS to be successfully interconnected to DSC-capable radios, regardless of manufacture. The Coast Guard recommends that you interconnect your GPS and DSC-equipped

radio. Doing so may save your life in an emergency situation.

Users of a VHF-FM marine radio equipped with Digital Selective Calling will also need to obtain a **Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number**. These are available from BoatUS, Sea Tow, the FCC and the United States Power Squadrons®. More information on Digital Selective Calling is available online at [www.navcen.uscg.gov/MARCOMMS/gmdss/dsc.htm](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/MARCOMMS/gmdss/dsc.htm).

When properly registered with an MMSI number and interfaced with GPS, the DSC radio signal transmits vital vessel information in an emergency. With one push of a button, your DSC radio sends an auto-mated digital distress alert containing your MMSI number, position, and the nature of the distress (if entered) to other DSC-equipped vessels and rescue facilities.

## *Keeping A Weather Eye:*

- May 6 In-Bay Keel #3 - 1300 hrs
- May 6 Social Hour - 1700 hrs
- May 9 Board of Gov'nors mtg - 1800 hrs
- May 14 Potluck/Membership mtg - 1800 hrs
- May 13 Whistler #2 - 1230 hrs



**Editor's Note: I found following in some old files that Jerry Seals (life-long / honorary member of the yacht club who moved to a landlocked part of the U.S. several years back) passed along to the club before he moved. This article was written by Neil "Bob" Price, HYC Commodore in 1952.**

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### **The Humboldt Yacht Club at Big Lagoon**

Herein is an account of the occupancy by the Humboldt Yacht Club of property about a quarter mile north of the end of the freeway crossing of Big Lagoon and on the east shore. The Yacht Club has enjoyed the use of this campsite since the year 1950 having done so on a year to year basis by courtesy of the Hammond Lumber Co. followed by Georgia Pacific Corp. and the Louisiana Pacific Corp. Because of the fact that a lease could not be obtained from any of the three companies, the hope of building a clubhouse on the site and installing a resident caretaker was never realized. As a result, continual vandalism of gate locks, buildings, tables and pump has been a continuing problem and expense. The club has managed to care for the property in an exemplary manner considering its distance from the home base in Eureka.

The writer tells of the "discovery" of this campsite in the following manner.

"My memory of Big Lagoon goes back to the year 1919 when my family first camped on the south shore at the cove. At that time there was a large ranch house nearby. Angora goats were being raised for their wool and were to be seen in all of the open areas even on the beach. During our two weeks there we seldom saw any other people or a boat on the lagoon. It was almost an all day drive from Eureka at that time they're being just a county roads. The present "Old Stage Coach Road" from Trinidad to Colonial Inn is typical of the roads at that time. On reaching Big Lagoon

the road turned to the east to affect a crossing at the neck of the lagoon in the vicinity of the present sawmill. At those times, when the lagoon was in flood, all traffic ceased until a ditch could be open at the north end starting to break out of the lagoon. Even then it was a matter of some 2 hours before travel could resume.

Having grown up in Samoa, the Hammond lumber Co. town, I was aware that the Hammonds has a summer place at Big Lagoon and also dog kennels at Stone Lagoon. It wasn't until the year 1928 that I first saw the summer home. At that time I was working on a survey part surveying for the new trestle and approaches. This was in the winter when the cottage was not occupied. I was impressed by this immaculate cottage with its wide porch overlooking the lagoon. There was a large woodshed and metal garage. Surrounding the house was a well kept lawn serving as a putting green. An arbor extended to the south almost to the end of the terrace. Eucalyptus and spruce trees bordered the terrace above the lagoon. A long float extended from the shore being held in place by anchors and cables. The cables were fastened high in the spruce trees one on each side. Just before reaching the cottage from the main road a narrow road led down to the pond below the terrace. The pond had a narrow entrance to the lagoon. Crossing the pond was a water pipeline supported by wooden posts. The water originated from a spring near the present road to the Louisiana Pacific Mill.

(Continued on next page)

## **The Humboldt Yacht Club at Big Lagoon** (Cont'd)

"During the summer of 1950 the Humboldt Yacht Club, due to the expansion of the Eureka Ice & Cold Storage Co. owners of the property at the Foot of A Street, were required to demolish their clubhouse. As no other location was then available on the bay we turned to Big lagoon looking for a clubsite.

"We had looked with interest at a cove just east of the present county park on the south shore. The dense forest between the cove and the county road proved to be too much of a problem for us financially so this idea was abandoned. On recording our findings to Mr. Hyatt of the Hammond lumber Co. He suggested that we look at the Hammond summer home site which had recently burned. The timekeeper at the mill had lost everything in the fire.

"Our search was over at first sight of this place and we began at Once to clear the road to the pawn for access to the beach. The following weekend a large crew began the test disposing of the charred remains of the cottage, furniture and appliances. Soil was imported to cover the ashes and the chimney was taken down and converted into a fire pit area. Continuing the work that Summer the area was wired including the metal garage, picnic tables out houses were built. Areas were clear for tents and lower limbs were removed from spruce trees for fire safety. Large floats we're built from logs that were donated by Hammond Hammond Lumber Co. these were in use for many years. Later the concrete ramp was constructed and removable floats were put in service.

"They original regattas we're primarily between the Coos Bay, Eugene and Humboldt Yacht Clubs expanding eventually to include clubs from all of Oregon and Northern California. The number of camp sites were increased on the terrace but these were not sufficient in the county park and Patrick's Point SP took care of the remainder."

The time has come when the Humboldt Yacht Club will not have exclusive use or control of the campsite. We have worked many hours over the years in maintaining this beautiful place can be reconciled with the memories wonderful times there as well as the lasting friendships we treasure. When wonder if the new management will match our stewardship. It will be interesting to observe.

Neil Price  
Past Commodore  
Humb.Yacht Club