

On the Beat

Introduction to Racing and Race Rules Seminar:

The Introduction to Racing and Race Rules' Seminar was attended by 23 sailors from HCYC, LCYC, and San Francisco Bay Yacht Club. Feedback has been very favorable from attendees. If you missed this seminar, not a problem. We will schedule another seminar later this year.

Frostbite Regatta:

Batten down the hatches!! Eight boats with brave and highly motivated sailors took to the waters of Canyon Lake on January 23rd. Weather forecasts were favorable up to about one hour before the start, after which forecasts from several sources became very conflicting.

The first race began in winds of 8 -10 knots increasing to about 20 knots at the finish. Race two started with rising wind velocity throughout. Nearing the finish, winds were steadily 35 knots and gusting to 50 knots on one occasion. Several boats suffered damages; thankfully no injuries were reported. Race three was abandoned due to increasing winds, boat damages, and the RC Boats anchor broke free in 40+ knots of wind just after Race two finished. Whew!!

Cruiser Fleet:

First Place:	Derek Crawford	<i>This Side Up</i>	Catalina 25
Second Place:	Chip Taute	<i>Forget Me Knot</i>	Hunter 28.5
Third Place:	Chris Klepinger	<i>Winds of Time</i>	O'Day 272
Fourth Place:	Randle Moore	<i>Knot 4 Sail</i>	Starwind 19

Big Boat Fleet:

First Place:	Jim Kizziar	<i>Alibi III</i>	Saber 362
Second Place:	Bill Fahey	<i>Lucky</i>	Catalina 36
Third Place:	Ken Schaefer	<i>Finally</i>	Catalina 30

Costaplenty experienced mechanical difficulties enroute to the starting line, thus was unable to start. Fortunately, she was able get underway just in time to perform a rescue and towing operation for one of the competitors after the second race. Thanks to **Marsha Teague, Phillip Austin** and Crew, *Knot 4 Sail* arrived home safely after a difficult tow performed by *Costaplenty*, heading into 40 knot winds, while making about 1 knot at full throttle. That is what Sailing is all about – Sportsmanship, Fair Sailing, and Helping others.

Thanks to **John Ruiz**, skipper of *Wind Chime*, who provided our Committee Boat that allowed the Race Committee to work in comfort on his boat during the blow. Thanks also to **Whitney Frilot**, skipper of our Chase Boat, **Jim Meadows** and **Charlie Teat** chase boat crew. More thanks to the other Race Committee members: **Bill Webb, Bryant Bowington, Larry Mathews**, and **Adif**.

On the Beat for February:

NORTH SAILS SAIL TRIM CLINIC will be held on Saturday February 6th from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The location will be the Bunk Haus on Route 306 in Hancock (about 2 miles from HCYC), thanks to Marty Chrisman's efforts.

North Sails is the largest sail manufacturer in the world and supplies sails to some the most successful racing teams. This seminar focuses on Sail Trim - upwind, reaching, and downwind.

HCYC members will receive a discounted fee of \$85, plus \$10 for the optional lunch. If you have not signed up yet, please do, as this will help all sailors, whether cruising or racing, to achieve better performance and enjoyment from their sailboats.

CHAPPED CHEEKS RACE - Saturday February 27th.

We will have a Skippers' Meeting at 10:00 – 10:15 am for the latest racing information. Those who wish to crew or to learn more about racing should also attend.

Our second Racing Event of the year will include a single race of about 12 miles beginning at 12:00 noon. Racing will be complete on or before 5:00 PM. This is an excellent family event, and ideal for new racers and cruisers. Announcements of winners will occur at HCYC at 5:30 PM. BYO Food and Beverage afterwards.

If you have not raced before or not recently, please join in. Our racing program is dependent upon everyone's support. I will be calling and emailing to provide more information and encouragement. Let's Sail!!

Around the Mark for March:

ST. PATRICK'S DAY REGATTA – Saturday March 20th.

CHARTER CRUISING OPTIONS PRESENTATION Saturday March 27th 1 PM – 4 PM

Parley:

A number of sailors have mentioned that one of the reasons for not racing is that the winners are frequently a small number of well equipped boats with highly experienced skippers. I would like to ask for input from cruising sailors, and sailors who occasionally race, as to how we can address this question.

In some clubs the boats that win most frequently are placed into different classes to compete amongst themselves. Cruising sailors and less experienced racers, who do not have high tech racing sails and gear, are grouped together to allow all to compete fairly for awards and recognition they deserve.

There are probably a number of different approaches – Your ideas are welcomed.

Scuttlebutt:

Collision: "The unexpected contact between one boat and another. As a rule, collisions that result in the creation of two smaller and less seaworthy vessels from the hull of one are thought to be more serious." – A Sailors Dictionary, H. Beard & R. McKie.

Ahoy:

Contact Pete Macler at pmacler@gvtc.com or 830-214-7477, if you are interested in learning more about Sailing 2010, or have suggestions.

***Fair Winds,
Pete Macler***