



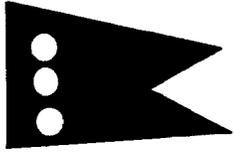
# FAIRWIND YACHT CLUB

# NEWSLETTER

June 2006

Editor: Robert Baron

Vol. 34 No. 6



## COMMODORE'S LOG

### MONDAY NIGHT HOBIE WAVE SERIES JULY 10–SEPTEMBER 11

Fairwind's Hobie Wave race series begins on Monday, July 10. There will be three races each night. The overall series runs every Monday night through September 11. The first start will be at 5:30 pm, so racers need to start rigging by 5 pm.

To gain more SCYA 'Club of the Year' points there will be a separate series every two Mondays. Thus we will have six series and get the maximum points. It also allows people that to join in as their schedule permits. At the end of the overall series a winner will be determined. Complicated? Yes!

Hobie Wave race chair Scott Rutherford is looking for volunteers to serve as race officer. He also needs to know who is racing.

This is very casual racing with the focus on having fun. All members should consider joining in.

Please email Scott at [fychobieracing@verizon.net](mailto:fychobieracing@verizon.net). He would like to hear from you to build a mailing list for the series.

### HOBIE WAVE TRAINING JULY 9

There will be training for the Hobie Waves on Sunday, July 9 at the G-2500 dock. If you'd like to get checked out on the catamarans this is the next opportunity. The session will start at 10 am and finish about 4 pm. Get ready to get wet! Bring sunscreen, water, lunch, a swimsuit and a change of clothes. There will be another training in August.

### FYC MEETING JUNE 22

On Thursday, June 22, the Fairwind Yacht Club Board of Directors will meet at the Marina Venice Yacht Club (MVYC) located at 4333 Admiralty Way located in the Marina City Club's West Tower in Marina del Rey.

The Board meeting will start at 7 pm. All members are invited to attend.

To attend the meeting enter Marina City Club's main gate. Tell the guard that you are going to the yacht club. The guard will give you a parking pass and a map.

Once parked, go to the West Tower. Take the elevator or stairs to the G2 level. If you have not been there before, please allow an extra fifteen minutes in case you get lost. After you have been there, it gets easier

### FAST 'N FUN GETS STARTS

Our six-week sailing summer camp for Boys and Girls members is off to a start. Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Elayne White at [cruisechair@att.net](mailto:cruisechair@att.net).

### FYC BOARD ELECTIONS

Every year Fairwind Yacht Club elects its board of directors. Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Fleet Captain, Secretary and Treasurer will be voted on.

Here's the election timeline as stated in the club's bylaws:

August -The nominations committee will announce a slate of candidates. It will also be announced in the next newsletter and via email.

September - At the general meeting a vote will be supervised by the election committee appointed by the Commodore. In addition to the announced slate, nominations may be made on the floor at the meeting. The election committee will draw up a ballot with the official slate and leave room for floor nominees.

The bylaws dictate that the Commodore will appoint the nomination committee. The Commodore has appointed Immediate Past Commodore Capt. Warren Smith to chair the nominations committee.

Are you interested in running for the board? Please contact Warren at coolwarren@yahoo.com

## WOMEN ON THE WATER

The Women on the Water and Women at the Helm races have been changed to July 8 and 9. Will the women of Fairwind enter a boat? Contact Rosalie Green at rosalielgreen@earthlink.net

## SMALL BOAT IQC

Monday, June 26 – Friday, June 30 Fairwind Yacht Club will be offering a five-day clinic to train and certify instructors for ASA 210 small boats (dinghies). The clinic includes single-handed sailing, towing, teaching demos, CPR, First Aid, written tests, swim test and more. This program is especially geared to volunteers and staff for our kids sailing program.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact Elayne White at cruisechair@att.net.

## EMAIL LIST

We have most members on an email list. This will allow the Club to send you updates and news between newsletters. If you are not receiving emails, please email Bob Baron at redbaron@mycondo.net. He will add you to the list.

## “OUTER SPACE IS MORE COMFORTABLE THAN BEING AT SEA”

*The sun was starting to set over Maupiha. The sky danced in brilliant tones of crimson, ruby, gold, red and scarlet. The measured billowy clouds captured every nuance of the sun's rays. The display lasted over an hour. Unbelievable.*

“Hey Dave, do you want to sail to the Marquesas?” said the voice on the line. I was still somewhere in Micronesia sailing with a group of Japanese sailors. “When does it leave?” I asked. “Ten days” was the reply. Without thinking I replied, “Yes please!”

When I returned to Marina del Rey I tried to get my feet back on the ground. I had just completed a 4,000-mile sail from Hawaii to Guam swinging through the Marshalls and Micronesia. I was wiped out! I was so beat up, dirty, tired, and thin. And my friends at SMWYC were concerned that I would miss opening day where I was to report on the absence of icebergs among other things. So I made the call that ever skipper dreads receiving. “Can you find someone else?” As it turned out the skipper had already found someone. Apparently I thought that I had committed while the skipper didn't hear it that way. Lucky!

Mariner IV is a Beneteau 57 that departed Marina del Rey fifteen months ago. Her owner is Dennis Tito, best known for being the first space tourist (or cosmonaut?). Dennis also started the Wilshire 5000 and now rules the realm of pension funds.

“It is easier predicting orbits than predicting the stock market,” said Dennis. He moved to California to work for NASA at JPL. Later he put his mathematical background to work developing tools to analyze equities.

“I started sailing after I started working at JPL,” Dennis said. “Some college buddies and I joined Fairwind Yacht Club, took lessons and sailed the cooperative club's fleet.” Dennis was a Fairwind member through most of the 70's. At the time the largest boat in Fairwind's fleet was a Catalina 27 named Fairwind 1.

Is this a Twilight Zone episode? After all I am Fairwind's commodore! What were the chances?

Dennis told me stories of his adventures in the Channel Islands and how much he enjoyed being a Fairwind member. On one occasion he skippered Fairwind 1 to Santa Barbara Island and experienced some awful anchoring. The rode was all messed up and it took them hours to straighten it out. He also told me about his adventures on the space station. Good stuff when you need things to talk about.

Tom Dameron skipper Mariner IV. Tom formerly owned Club Nautique, a sailing school/charter company in Marina del Rey. But Tom found himself spending more time in the office than out on the water. After selling Club Nautique Tom and his wife, Katey, headed out from MdR with a three-year plan on

Paloma Blanca, their Jeneau 40, beginning with the Baja Ha-Ha and ending in Australia.

But a funny thing happened in Puerto Vallarta. Tom and Katey were invited to return to Marina del Rey to meet Dennis. After hearing their plan, Dennis asked them if they would consider doing their plan on his boat including expenses and a pay! Dennis would fly in occasionally and spend a week aboard. Every sailor's dream! It could not have happened to a nicer couple.

Tom told me that he was not sure how the relationship would work out. After one year skippering Dennis' boat Tom says that he couldn't be happier. "I kept the boat in Mexico just in case things did not work out," Tom said. "But after one year, I have decided to sell it. This is a great gig."

Katey oversees the galley (although everybody took turns cooking and cleaning), takes watches and delighted us with her singing. "You really have to be in love with your husband to follow him to sea," says Katey. Katey loves visiting the islands and enjoys short sails but finds that the overnight, bluewater passages are rough.



The 4 swabees: Dave, Tom, Bob, and Dennis.

I boarded Mariner IV in Raiatea, one of the Society (Tahitian) Islands. The crew consisted of Dennis, Tom, Katey, Bob, and myself. Bob Cook is a seasoned Bay Area sailor who owns a Beneteau 473 in Marina del Rey, crewed the initial delivery from Marina del Rey. Bob tells a funny story about the initial voyage where another crewmember apparently decided to jump overboard and swim across the equator without alerting anyone first! He was recovered but with a lot of adrenaline and worry being expended.



Fixing the frig.

Raiatea is the center of the Polynesian universe. If a triangle is drawn from Hawaii to Easter Island to New Zealand, Raiatea is smack dab in the middle. It was an important gathering place for important funerals and gatherings.

As luck would have it the tiny Raiatea Yacht Club was hosting the French Polynesian Youth Sailing Championships. Kids from all islands gathered to compete on Lasers and Opitris. It was fun to watch and to meet some of the folks.

Our first stop was Tahaa, just across the same coral reefed lagoon from Raiatea where we had a delicious Polynesian-French fusion restaurant that served amazing food despite the remote location.

The next stop was Maupiti, another island in a huge lagoon ringed by a coral reef with a treacherous



Tom and Katie at anchor in Moorea.

entrance. In the lagoon there were many sand bars and coral heads to add more hazards. After anchoring, we went ashore. It was Sunday. As we walked along the main road children politely tested their English, preteen girls followed us around giggling nervously, and workers invited me to play something like Bachi ball. (I sucked!) We bought black pearls for pennies on the dollar compared with US prices.

The next day we entered Maupiha's lagoon by going through the cut in the reef surrounding the island. The cut is only 60 feet wide—scary! To enter we went through breaking surf and the possibility of up to a six-knot, non-tidal current. When the lagoon fills up from waves or rain the water only has one way to exit, through the entrance. Like most atolls the highest elevation is about 30 feet.

Only 11 people live on the atoll. There had been a couple dozen more but a few years ago a hurricane forced them to evacuate. Most have not returned. Maupiha is littered with hundreds of rotting palm tree trunks lying at the bottom of the crystal clear lagoon from the last hurricane.

We must have met just about the entire Maupiha population! First a fisherman dropped by trying to exchange some huge lobsters for whiskey. We did not have any whiskey and he was not interested in vodka, tequila, wine, beer, or even money!

Later a large group of locals approached our yacht. At first we were not sure if they were friendly or pirates! As they approached we could see a child and we relaxed. One of them was a wild Frenchman named Felipe who was in the middle of a circumnavigation on



Sunset Maupihaa

his ketch Nomad and seemingly without access to weather information. They invited us to join them at the other side of the 12-mile lagoon, but that would have taken hours. Avoiding coral heads, rocks and sandbars meant that we had to stay below 3 knots. We were scheduled to leave early the next morning.

I admire the French for their ATONs. Even the remotest of islands and atolls are surprisingly well marked with buoys and range markers. Of course it is the lateral B system, with red and green and nuns and cans reversed. And they use the cardinal system that provides excellent information once you learn it.



Raratonga waterfall.

Then we were on to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. The course was 400 miles. The wind was either non-existent or right on the nose. We experienced up to 25 knots and ten foot seas. Going into weather for a few days was tough on some of the crew. A couple crewmembers were on the rail seasick and exhausted.

Rarotonga is another gorgeous island. It is a newer island and therefore the terrain is rougher than Tahiti. It is populated by friendly confident Maoris and New Zealanders. It was Saturday, therefore everything shut down at 12 noon.

A few hours later Dennis and I caught a flight back to LAX. Reflecting on the trip Dennis told me that "Outer space is more comfortable than being at sea." He then added "sometimes."

Dennis is already planning more sailing adventures after Mariner IV reaches Australia and is shipped back to Marina del Rey. Dennis is considering a French, custom built, carbon fiber, 85' long, 40' beam, cruising

catamaran. He wants a boat that will perform well in light air. The architect predicts that the new sailboat will do six knots of speed in 4 knots of breeze! Wouldn't that be nice!



Last passage with Bora Bora off the stern.

## AHOY Fairwind Cruisers!!!

**Avalon Bay Cruisers are about to cast off and the boats are filling up fast!!! Make your reservation NOW CALL TODAY!!!!.... don't get left behind.**

**Guaranteed... you will have A LOT of FUN!!!!**

**FYC 2006 CRUISE SCHEDULE!!!!  
MARK THESE DATES!!!  
DON'T MISS THE EXPERIENCE!!!**

**ALL FYC Cruises are affordable, fabulous and FUN!!!!**

<b>Tuesdays Cruisers</b>	<b>Fri.–Sun.</b>	<b>Jun. 9–11</b>
<b>Isthmus</b>	<b>Fri.–Sun.</b>	<b>Jun. 23–25</b>
<b>Nick Rendezvous</b>		
<b>Cruise – Oxnard</b>	<b>Sat.–Sun.</b>	<b>July 29–30</b>
<b>Paradise Cove</b>	<b>Sat.–Sun.</b>	<b>Aug. 19–20</b>
<b>King Harbor Dinner</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Sept. 16</b>
<b>Buccaneer Days</b>	<b>Thur.–Sun.</b>	<b>Sept. 28–Oct 1</b>

**OUR CRUISES ARE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MEET NEW FRIENDS AND HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE DOING WHAT YOU LOVE TO DO!!!  
DON'T MISS OUT!!!**

**To sign up as skipper or crew for any of the cruises please email: [cruisechair@att.net](mailto:cruisechair@att.net)**

## VHF RADIO PROCEDURES:

### CALLING:

- Insure that channel 16 is not in use...then initiate your call.
- Speak slowly & clearly "VESSEL/STATION CALLED This is Collective Effort WFC 3333."
- Wait for response for 2 minutes.
- When contact is made, switch to a working channel [ex 68, 69, 71, 72]

### RESPONDING:

- "NAME OF VESSEL/STATION CALLING This is Collective Effort
- WFC 3333 over"...
- Switch to a working channel & continue...

### ENDING:

- "This is Collective Effort WFC 3333 out."

## VHF EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

Use **MAYDAY** *only* if life or property is in **imminent danger**.

Otherwise, use **PAN** ["pahn"] if life or property is in jeopardy.

### INITIATING AN EMERGENCY CALL FOR HELP:

- Use channel 16 only.
- Speak slowly & clearly "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY
- This is Collective Effort WFC 3333."

### REPEAT 3 TIMES !!

- Wait for response for 1 minute.

REPEAT 3 TIMES PER MINUTE until recognized.

### STAY CALM BE READY...

- to describe your boat,
- location [lat & long from GPS is best],
- nature of distress,
- type of help needed & people aboard,
- any injuries.

## HOW ABOUT RADIO CHECKS ??

I just verified this info w/ the Coast Guard today (6/7/06): Initiate any radio check request on channel 9 first...if no answer, try any other "working" channel such as 68, 69, 71, 72 or 78.

**AVOID** using **16 for radio checks...THAT'S OLD SCHOOL NOW !!**

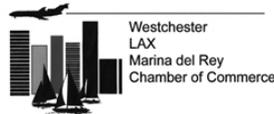
Respectfully submitted, Fred Taylor, Safety Officer

# CALENDAR

Date	Activity	Location
Thursday, June 22, 2006	Board meeting 7:00 PM <i>NOTE: Change of date</i>	Marina Venice Yacht Club 4333 Admiralty Way, MdR
Saturday July 1, 2006	MdR Workday / Club Sail Day	MdR Dockside 9:00 AM till ???
Friday–Sunday June 23–25, 2006	Isthmus Cruise	Dockside
Sunday, July 2, 2006	Oxnard Workday / Club Sail Day	Oxnard Dockside 12 noon till ???
Thursday, July 20, 2006	Board meeting 6:30 PM, General Membership meeting 8:00 PM	Marina Venice Yacht Club 4333 Admiralty Way, MdR

## FAIRWIND YACHT CLUB

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Association of Santa  
Monica Bay  
Yacht Clubs



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California Clean  
Boating Network

