



FAIRWIND YACHT CLUB

NEWSLETTER

May 2007

Editor: Robert Baron

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FOUL WEATHER TRAINING CRUISE

By Ken Murray

Three Club instructors went to Santa Cruz Island under the watchful eye of Instructor John Stevenson, assisted by Asst. Boat Chief Paul Antico, on our Catalina 400, Angelsea. The purpose was to navigate and sail in the predicted foul weather. Gilbert Tseng, Jenson Crawford, and I also finished our Cruise Checkout at the same time. Saturday saw a fantastic sailing day, as the changing winds provided a beam reach at 7 knots to Pelican Harbor, which was reached with plenty of time to spare. The obligatory failed first attempt at anchoring occurred, but the second held perfectly, along with the anchor off the stern. Gilbert proved himself an excellent chef, which was great since I was BBQ-challenged. It is rumored that BBQ's are actually Gilbert's specialty, so this needs to be his assigned role in the future! Sunday was a very different sailing day. We motored along the coast of Santa Cruz, waiting for the wind to come up. However, we seemed to remain



John, Jenson, and Gilbert observe, as Ken tries to find his way out of a fogbank with a map.

FYC MEETINGS MAY 17

BYLAW & STANDING RULES VOTE

On Thursday, May 17 the FYC Board and General Meetings will convene at MVYC (see above) at 6:30 pm and 8 pm respectively. At the General Meeting there will be a vote to approve changes to the club's Bylaws and Standing Rules. Please review the proposed changes that you were provided or on the club's website. Please plan on attending the Membership Meeting—we need a quorum!

COME VOTE!!

in the eye of the wind all day. Then the fog hit, then the rain. Fortunately, we had a lot of firepower in the navigation skill dept, and the three students completed our ASA 104 exam on the motoring back. All three of us will be taking the ASA 203, 204, and 205 instructors exams next month, and we hope to assist our current instructors in helping teach these skills.

COMMERCIAL SHIP DANGER

by Ken Murray

When we go beyond close coastal waters, and even sometimes when we are in those waters, we may encounter commercial shipping. The most common that we see, are the oil tankers off of LAX. There are two immediate dangers that we, as sailors, might encounter.

First, there is a lot of hardware underwater between the tankers and shore. This exists just under the surface of the water. Most sailboats have a draft that will put them in danger of hitting the pipes or wire lines that

run through this area. It is foolhardy to enter the area, and my understanding is that it is actually prohibited. There are boat repairers who have made a living off of boats who have tried. You should go outside Buoy 2ES in all situations.

The other danger is from collision with these ships. They are HUGE, but they travel at incredible speeds, often 30 knots. However, they have very limited maneuverability, compared to our boats. We are used to estimating potential collisions with much smaller boats, and so our "guesstimates" may put us into danger. See the two pictures, below. These were taken on a cruise to Santa Cruz Island. Our boat is moving at 90 degrees to the course of the large ship, and we are moving to the left of the pictures. The second picture was taken ONE MINUTE after the first. We were carefully watching the situation as it developed, and were fully prepared to alter course to go behind, if need be.



Photos by member Paul Antico



One minute later!!

I won't say that you should never be in a situation like picture #1, but you should certainly be taking the situation very seriously. There was a sailor lost at sea near San Francisco last month, who has not been found, and of whom no trace has been discovered. There are many who think he may have been hit by one of these transports, and the sinking would be almost instantaneous and catastrophic.

HOW CAN I GET ON A RACE BOAT?



Now that race session is in full swing, lots of members have been asking questions like "What is there to know about racing? Where can I go to learn?", and "How can I get invited to crew on a race boat?" Here are some suggestions/resources from local racers:

*"What is there to know about racing?
Where can I go to learn?"*

The Simple Answer:

All you really need to know is the meaning of these racing terms: 'regatta', 'racing', and 'crew'. Authoritative definitions from the Sailing Pocket Dictionary:

Regatta: Organized sailing competition that pits your skills against your opponents' luck
Racing: Popular nautical contact sport
Crew: Heavy, stationary objects used on shipboard to hold down corners of charts, anchor cushions in place, and dampen sudden movements of the boom

The Serious Answer:

Free, on-line resources to learn about racing:

- "Racers' resources" section of the Woman's Sailing Association (WSA) website: <http://www.wsasmb.org/>

- "Get into racing" section of <http://www.yrrc.com/>
- Intro to racing: http://www.uiowa.edu/%7Eesail/skills/racing_basics/index1.shtml
- Animated introduction to racing: <http://www.racing.sailingcourse.com/index.html>

Other resources: There are good seminars on racing sponsored often by WSA, local yacht clubs and others, watch for notices in the newsletter.

"How can I get invited to crew on a race boat?"

The Simple Answer: (from Jenson)

Find out the skipper's preferred beverage. Show up early at the dock before a race with six-pack of same.

The Serious Answer: Generally three options, each can work:

Option 1: Find out where the racers are, go to them, and hope they are desperate for a body (the singles bar approach; good chance for fast results...if you have the nerve)

There are races almost every day of the week in Marina del Rey or Redondo Beach. Show up early and let the organizers, and anyone else who looks friendly, know you are available to crew. There are races for everyone, here are a few examples of the range:

- Are you an athletic sailor, not afraid of capsizing? Skippers of 2-person Vanguards are often looking for dingy race crew for UCLA MAC Tuesday evenings: <http://www.macsailing.org/TuesdayNight/index.html>
- Hoping for lots of boats, lots of crewmates, excitement, and a big BBQ gathering afterwards? Then it's Wednesday evening California Yacht Club Sunset series.
- Looking for relaxed, low-key racing with less yelling, more enjoying time with friends on the water? Look for 'cruiser' racing and the 'cruiser classes' in the Wednesday night CYC Sunset Series. Jen Huntzicker often skippers Collective Effort for Tuesday night cruiser races in MDR, and has offered to help members get on boats for it.
- Live/work in South Bay? Try the King Harbor YC Twilight races on Thursdays: <http://www.khyc.org/racing/index.htm>

- Live/work in Oxnard/Ventura? Try the Wet Wednesdays hosted by Anacapa YC: <http://www.anacapayachtclub.com/>

On-line resources: The Association of Santa Monica Bay Yacht Clubs site lists most of the keelboat races, and links to the sponsoring club for more information: <http://www.asmbyc.org/>. Other resources: free 'Race Calendar and Yacht Club Directory' available at boating supply stores.

Fairwind Hobie races start in July on Monday nights. Casual races, perfect for beginners. You don't need crew; you can take out a Hobie on your own if you're checked out. More info: <http://www.fairwind.org/racing/2007/index.shtml>, or race chair Gilbert Tseng.

Option 2: Post a 'race crew available' ad (the singles ad approach; for crew and skippers who want to know each other better before committing to an afternoon together) On-line resources to help: These sites let you look for skippers needing crew, or post a notice of your availability to crew: Yacht racers resource center; <http://www.yrrc.com/> Steadycrew; www.steadycrew.com. Other resources: Most yacht clubs have crew lists, or bulletin boards for 'crew available' postings on 3 x 5 cards.

Example of **Skipper Looking for Crew** ad on YRRC site:

RESPOND	Rusty	Crew		M	J/80	26	4/10/2007 at 17:16:17	SM
Fun one design sport boat/asymmetrical spin looking for crew. NOOD 2007 1st and 2nd in Spring Keel Boat OD 2007. Wed BBQ races start on April 18th along with weekend races. Everybody does somethign on this boat! Picture of J80 can be seen on http://www.j80-socal.com/zonie.htm								

Option 3: Get a trusted friend to set you up (the blind date approach). Scott Rutherford and Jen Huntzicker have offered to 'match-make' would-be race crew. Good luck!

FAIRWIND CRUISES COMING UP!

Ken Murray, Cruise Chair

This month, May, sees our first regularly scheduled overnite cruise, to Paradise Cove. We will anchor, enjoy company, have happy hour and dinner, and sleep overnite at our anchorage. We will get up in the morning to coffee and breakfast, and sail back to MDR. Estimated meeting time Sat, 9am. Estimated return, by 3pm.

In June is our first Catalina trip of the year, to Avalon Harbor! We will leave Friday the 8th, and return on

CALENDAR

Saturday–Sunday May 12–13, 2007	Paradise Cove Cruise	See page 3
Thursday May 17, 2007	Board meeting 6:30 PM, General meeting 8:00 PM <i>VOTE on Bylaws and Standing Rules Changes</i>	Marina Venice Yacht Club 4333 Admiralty Way, MdR
Friday–Sunday May 18–20, 2007	203, 204, 205 IQC's	
Sunday, May 20, 2007	Oxnard Workday / Club Sail Day 9:00 AM	Channel Islands Yacht Club 4100 S. Harbor Blvd Oxnard, CA 93035
Saturday June 2, 2007	Workday / Club SaiMdR 1 Day	MdR Dockside 9:00 AM till ???
Friday–Sunday, June 8–10, 2007	Avalon Harbor Cruise	

Sunday, with Saturday to explore the town of Avalon, and nearby environs!

Also in June, is our first ever “families with kids” oriented cruise, Leaving on the morning of Friday, the 29th, and returning that Sunday. Moorings will be at the Isthmus.

All overnite cruises cost \$20/pp, plus food expenses. The group makes food decisions to their tastes. Club members are free to invite non-member guests to go on these trips.

If you would like to go on any cruise, please contact me at kmurray@pol.net, and I'll put you on the appropriate list!

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Association of Santa
Monica Bay
Yacht Clubs



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