

Gal' Warnings

COMMODORE'S QUARTERS



By *Laura Guggenheimer*

The yachting season has officially begun! March 17th and 18th marked the

official start of the yachting season in Marina del Rey. The weekend was spent crawling (via the Baywatch Boat and Sheriff Boat) from yacht club to yacht club to observe each yacht club's traditions to usher in another fun and safe season. I was lucky enough to have Milka, our Social Director be my companion for Saturday's festivities starting at our very own host yacht club, Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club. The traditional Color Guard was present along with a very sporadic peppering of cannon fire from the outside balcony that spilled many a drink on white pants. A heartfelt speech by Dave Lumian followed and after the final flag was raised we headed upstairs to munch on the great food provided. The next yacht club was California Yacht Club and then finishing at Marina Venice Yacht Club. Sunday was much the same starting with traditional Irish Coffee at South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club's 75 Opening Day ceremony. Then it was off to Pacific Mariner's



Laura Guggenheimer and Milka Alexandrino enjoying Marina del Rey's Opening Day

April 10: Racing to Hawaii
By Avghi Constantinides and Sam Chin

Social Hour 6:30, Business Mtg 7:30, Speaker 8pm

Yacht Club and the weekend ended at Del Rey Yacht Club. Each club offered their own special ceremony and it was a great chance to network and meet new people.

We are lucky in Southern California because we get to sail all year long. Mid-March was the official start of the yachting season but really when does it officially end?

WSA is definitely gearing up for a great

summer season out on the water when activities certainly increase for us. Our race co-chairs, Kim Stuart and Joan Chandler have some excellent ideas for a race clinic this month and other activities this summer including the Sun Down Series with Del Rey Yacht Club.

Keep your eyes open for these events and read on in the newsletter for more details.

I'm currently updating our website and hope to have it launched before the summer begins. Making our website more modern and useful will benefit our current members and hopefully attract some new ones.

Speaking of new members, there will be a Membership/Intro to WSA day in May (date to be decided at next board meeting) to get new people interested in our club. If you know someone who might be interested in joining our great club, get them involved.

News from the Race Co-Chair

By Joan Chandler

First of all, a big round of wild applause to the WINNERS of the 2007 Sundance Cup recently held in Ft. Worth, Texas. Our own Liz Hjorth skippered the winning J/22 in the prestigious Women's International Match Racing Association event, with crew consisting of Marylyn Hoenemeyer, Karyn Jones and Shala Lawrence (of San Diego). Sounds like it was a tough fought competition in challenging conditions with Liz and company narrowly edging out Claudia Wainer.

March was also a good month for competition closer to home. Berger 2, the Topanga Race, was held March 10th - I heard it was a beautiful day with steady winds getting people back to the dock mostly before dark.

The SCCYC Les Storrs Regatta was held March 24 and 25th in sunny light wind conditions. There were 6 fleets with about 32 boats out that weekend, including the ever popular Martin 242 fleet with 11 entrants. WSA Race co-Chair had her Shock 35 *Voo Doo Doll* out on Sunday.

CYC's Spring Keelboat Regatta happened March 31st and April 1st. April Fool's day came a day early it seemed as the fog was so thick boats were having a hard time Saturday finding the committee boat ☺ After a bit of a postponement, the fog lifted letting the six classes get off the starting line. There was a good showing of about 40 boats, with a strong showing from one design fleets: Schock 35's, Olson 30's, J/80's and Martin 242, of course. Kim Stuart had her Shock 35 out again with a WSA presence as usual. I was pleased to get my little J/24 in the water again - rusty! My crew consisted of WSA Vice Commodore Sue Service, WSA member Kelly Cantley and soon to be WSA member Monica Antola, with our token male Kevin Thomas. Thankfully Sunday brought a bit more wind - great regatta overall.

Upcoming events?? Yes! Many not to be missed. April brings some big racing - Ahmanson Regatta in Newport Harbor on April 21st and 22nd and the Newport Ensenada Race starting April 27th. I see SCCYC is sponsoring a Lido 14 event on April 21st - now there is a fast growing fleet - one that will undoubtedly have a great showing when the Thursday evening sailing starts in May.

And - Wednesday night racing starts soon - yea! CYC will host the Sunset Series beginning April 18th. The two prior Wednesday evenings CYC will host related seminars: April 4th - Safety & Sailing and April 11th the Sunset Series Racing Seminar. Both will have much valuable information for both new and veteran racers. Note: these are also great venues for skippers looking for crew and sailors looking to have a "ride" so as not to miss out on the Wednesday fun!

April General Meeting Presents: Avghi at Sea; The 2006 Pacific Cup Aboard the Bounty

By Karyn Jones, Education Chair

So how does someone go from 10 years of deck fluff to accidentally racing on Wednesday nights to competing in one of the most high profile races in San Francisco? Come and find out for April's general meeting where WSA's own Avghi Constantinides takes us aboard a 52' wooden yawl along with Sam Chin across the Pacific en route to Hawaii.

Next month, ASMBYC's Sportsman of the Year Michael Leneman gives us helpful hints and handy tips on how to stay on the boat and what to do if there's no boat to stay on...

Help celebrate Earth Day Saturday April 21st in Malibu Creek State Park

By Fran Weber-Melville

WSA members, this is your chance to take an active part the Earth Day Celebration 2007!. Join Heal the Bay as they celebrate Earth Day for a restoration project from 9:am - 1:00pm in Malibu Creek State Park. You can do your part to keep the largest natural creek draining into the Santa Monica Bay clean and healthy. Join Mark Abramson and his Stream team crew as they continue the battle against the ever invasive hemlock and pepper weed. After the vegetation has been cleared, help the crew plant native plants to ensure a healthy riparian corridor.

From PCH, turn east on Malibu Canyon Road. The park is about 5.5 miles up Malibu Canyon Road on your left (after the Tapia Water Restoration Facility). It is approximately 1.5 miles

past Puima Road. Meet in front of the restrooms in the lower parking lot.

Take some time out from your busy sailing schedule to play on Earth Day with the Heal the Bay gang!!!! Hope to see you all there!!!

First WSA Race Clinic

By Kim Stuart, co race chair

Sunday, April 15 -- WSA will be hosting a race clinic at SCCYC. The topic of the clinic will be mark roundings and we will have a classroom discussion from 9 am to noon. There will be multiple speakers on-hand and in addition to the presentation we will have a Q&A session about specifics as they relate to tactics and rules for roundings. Weather marks, leeward marks, offset marks, changes of the marks on the course and more will be covered.

The cost will be \$5 for WSA and SCCYC members, and \$10 for non- members. After the discussion and a short break for lunch, we will do some on the water practice in real rounding situations. If you would like to bring your boat out, please email me -- kim.stuart@ca.rr.com -- and if you are looking for a boat to crew on for the OTW portion, please let me know as well.

Dr. Robert Baker Regatta Sunday 4/22/07

By Rosalie Davis-Green, WSA Staff Commodore Ladies and Gents, don't miss the Dr. Robert Baker regatta on 4/22/07. This is a good opportunity for your WOW/WAH teams to tune up.

You will have honed your skills in the WSA race clinic on 4/15/07. Test your team on the race course before you forget what you learned.

There are 3 races for one design and PHRF and 2 races for cruising division. Trophies will be awarded both for your regular class and for the best boats in the WOW (all women crew), WAH (mixed crew) performance and WAH Cruising.

Have a fun day! Great hospitality at MVYC after the races. Go to sbyrc.org for the notice of race.

Favorite Marina del Rey weather websites

By Margaret Pommert

I've been getting calls a day recently from my local sailing friends. Why? Because I live right on the harbor next door to the MdR Coast Guard station, and took a marine weather forecasting class last Fall. Friends who live in other areas call me to see what the conditions are like before they decide to make the long drive here to go sailing. "Is the MdR Coast Guard station flying the small craft advisory flag (a single red pennant)?" some ask. Others ask "Do you think it will rain this afternoon there?" to decide if they should pack foulies. Some wonder "How's the wind?"

I love to feel useful. So I pause for a moment, then report "Yep, the red flag's up", or "It's raining now, but looks like it will clear up in an hour or two", or "Wow, there's a NE wind gusting well over 20 knots". My friends thank me, imagining that I've been pondering cloud formations and flagpoles outside my window.

Here's my secret: usually the only window I use to answer their questions is the Microsoft kind. For casual local day-sails, three websites give all the weather information a sailor needs in fairly clear, concise formats. The first is Accuweather for Marina del Rey for rain and temperature predictions. The other two are:

<http://www.watchthewater.org/> Select 'Marina del Rey'. On the right hand side of the screen is a webcam you control with arrow keys. Turn the webcam towards the flag pole to see if the small craft advisory flag is flying, as it is in the picture below.

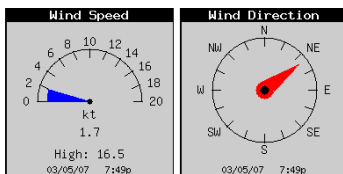
This site also gives other useful information for planning your sail, such as what time the sun sets,



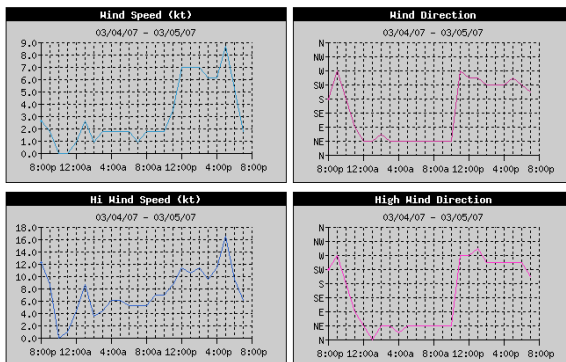
tides, and surf height. When the small craft flag is flying during beautiful, calm conditions (like the picture above), optimistic sailors sometimes dismiss it only to be

knocked on their beam ends by wind or waves a couple of hours later. Remember it may be flying for **forecasted** conditions, not just **current** conditions. Many marine insurance policies state that they won't cover damage incurred when a small craft advisory is in effect, regardless of the cause, so it's a good idea to check this ahead of time. While there is no legal definition of 'small craft', it's generally taken to be any boat under 65 feet, so don't assume that because you're not in a little dingy that you can ignore it!

http://marinaaquaticcenter.org/weather/MAC_Conditions.htm The UCLA Marine Aquatic Center is everyone's favorite for current wind information, including average speed, high wind speed (gusts) and wind direction:



Past 24 Hours



Now that I've shared my secret, I hope that my sailor friends will still call me once in a while... and invite me to go sailing!

Some pictures from February's Women's Sailing Convention:



Upcoming Calendar of Events

...April 2007

4 th Weds	Safety and Sailing Seminar – CYC
10 th Tues	WSA general meeting SMWYC
11 th Weds	Sunset Series Seminar - CYC
14 th Sat	Mac Jones Inverted Start Race – SMWYC
15 th Sun	WSA race clinic
18 th Weds	Sunset Series Starts – CYC
21 st -22 nd Sat/Sun	Ahmanson Regatta, NHYC
22 nd Sun	Baker Series Race – WSA SMBYRC MVYC
24 th Tues	WSA Board Meeting
27 th -29 th	Newport-Ensenada Race

...May 2007

3 rd Thurs	Sunstroke Series begins – CYC
4-5 Sat/Sun	Yachting Cup in San Diego
8 th Tues	WSA General Meeting
12 th Sat	Mac Jones #2, Berger #3
18 th Friday	Sundown Series begins – DRYC
20 th Sunday	Duke Jones One Design Regatta SMWYC
22 nd Tues	WSA Board Meeting
26 th Sat	Corinthian Cup - KHYC

Racers – be sure to review a copy of the 2007 ASMBYC calendar – you can get a copy at <http://www.asmbyc.org>

Daysails: Daysails take place on Saturdays and Sundays, and are not listed on this calendar – contact Dianne Christman (wsadaysails@gmail.com) for up to date information!



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MISSION STATEMENT:

- To promote and support women's Sailing based on the following principles:
- To provide education opportunities;
- To provide information on gaining access to Races, cruises and other Santa Monica Bay activities;
- To support "Youth in Sailing" community Service programs;
- To Support established sailing programs For women; and
- To enhance networking opportunities.

<http://www.wsasmb.org>.....Women's Sailing Assoc of Santa Monica Bay