



THE WHISTLER NEWSLETTER

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

When I first joined the yacht club, I literally had no idea which direction was forward and which was aft. I thought port was just a wine. A cleat? Is that like the soccer shoe you use to get better traction on deck? I was a newbie mess. Someone in our club suggested I attend an event that would give me great information, important resources and teach me a lot.

For new sailors and well-seasoned alike, the *Pacific Sail & Power Boat Show* (formerly known as Strictly Sail Pacific) provides a plethora of options for sailors of all levels. There are expert-led free seminars with topics such as cruising Baja California and the Sea of Cortez, diesel engine mechanics,

women in sailing, learning to sail in the 21st century and more. There are exhibitors of all types, from financing companies and yacht dealers, to sail makers, equipment dealers and other Northern California yacht clubs. This year's event will be held April 19-22 in Richmond, CA at the Craneway Pavilion and Marina Bay Yacht Harbor. For more information on this great event, please visit their website at <https://pacificboatshow.com>.

Also, if you will be traveling and would like a letter of recommendation for visiting other yacht clubs, please let me know and I would be happy to write one for you.

Commodore Stacy

NOW HEAR THIS:

2 DINGHY-DOCK SPACES AVAILABLE

Rates are \$25 per month, with three month minimum paid in advance.

Special Deal:

Rent a space for the rest of the year for \$150, that's only \$15 per month. Kayak or canoe rate is \$20 per month or \$125 for the rest of the year. More than one kayak OK for same price. Vessels must be securely tied to the dock.

Contact BRUCE BRALY at
bralyb47@aol.com
or call 445-2285

POTLUCK

TUESDAY, MARCH 6th at 7PM
Hosted by Sharon and Bill Hiney
Theme: "Go Fly A Kite"
[bring whatever you want]*

* Editor's Note:

Several years ago we had a potluck where members were told to bring whatever you want. When the food table was laid out and the dinner-bell finally rung, half the table was covered with Fried Chicken, and the other half was filled with Red Velvet Cake!

Caveat Emptor.

See you at the March potluck!

WHISTLER



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Commodore:
Stacy Lane

Vice Commodore:
Larry Fox

Rear Commodore:
Stephen Buck

Secretary:
Shane Mizer

Treasurer:
Garrett Coonrod

Port Captain:
Bruce Braly

Members At Large:
Jim Hendry
Rich Robletto
Stephen Pepper

Past Commodore:
Richard Hendry

Newsletter Staff:
Richard Hendry
Max Ebb
Mark Roundings

HUMBOLDT YACHT CLUB
Post Office Box 445
Eureka, California 95502

humboldtyachtclub.org

EIGHT BELLS FOR TOM ELFERS

Tom Elfers passed away on February 21st. Tom was a long-standing member of the yacht club who, along with his wife Karen, was presented with a life-time membership several years ago. Tom had been very active in the club, serving as Commodore for three consecutive years from 2005-2007. Tom was also an active racer, and loved to sail his San Juan, *Bonnie Blue*. Services are pending. Sailing free now, Tom.

THE CAUCUS RACE

- by Richard Hendry, Past Commodore -

Once again the issue of the **HUMBOLDT YACHT CLUB STANDING RACE RULES FOR ANNUAL & SEASONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS [Amended 3/11/2014]** was brought up at the last Board of Governors' meeting, after several complaints were recently voiced by some within the general membership that the previous rules on scoring should not have been changed in 2014. Although nobody on the current Board could remember what issues had prompted the revisions back then, everyone did agree that it must have involved no little amount of discussion and deliberation, and must have been for really, really good reasons. And as no one could think why we should go through all of that again right now, the matter was tabled, indefinitely.

Personally, I think our scoring should be done similar to a Caucus Race, you know, like from *Alice in Wonderland* - - *What IS a Caucus-race? said Alice [...] Why, said the Dodo, the best way to explain it is to do it. [...] 'First it marked out a race-course, in a sort of circle, (the exact shape doesn't matter, it said,) and then all the party were placed along the course, here and there. There was no One, tw'o, three, and away, but they began running when they liked, and left off when they liked, so that it was not easy to know when the race was over. However, when they had been running half an hour or so [...] the Dodo suddenly called out The Race Is Over! and they all crowded round it, panting, and asking, But who has won? [...] At last the Dodo said, everybody has won, and all must have prizes.*

WHISTLER

AROUND THE MARKS

- by Larry Fox, Vice Commodore -

The keelboat racing season is off to a great start this year with an exciting single-handed race on February 4! Garrett Coonrod, sailing *Free Energy*, won by 52 seconds in a race lasting almost two hours! Ed Mattson was second sailing *MegaHurts* just 18 seconds ahead of yours truly, sailing *Truant*. Curt Brown sailing *Ru-Bun* finished fourth. Richard Hendry and a new guest also sailed. Thanks, Curt, for inviting your dock-mate! Here are a few pics from that race:



Photos by R. Hendry

Without crew for the Feb 17th FOG race, Garrett invited me to crew on *Free Energy*. Looked like a wind-free day but we were surprised by a nice wind and were overpowered after rounding 19. I can see how *Free Energy* got its name, that boat moves!

Hopefully this week's wintry blast is the last gasp of really cold weather and we can look forward to some great Spring sailing. We're less that a month away from Wednesday night FOG Sailing, beginning March 14th. The last FOG on Saturday happens March 10th. And we begin the Whistler Series this month on March 24th. Skippers meeting at 1100, on the late side for a Whistler, so all morning-challenged people take heart and come out.

See you on the water and at the club house - Larry

WHISTLER

Time and Tide...

- by Bruce Braly, Port Captain -

Time and tide wait for no man (or woman). This saying has always gotten me. To me, that you can't stop time has meant that one had better get on with it or it's never going to happen. This saying goes well back and tide originally meant a period of time, like seasons.

Tide plays a big factor when sailing on Humboldt Bay. The lull is short lived, so it's either coming or going and you need to be mindful whether racing or just trying to get back to the dock. Great gains (or losses) can be had with the tide. I think I've mentioned this before, but when the tide is at its highest at the entrance it is still flowing in up the bay. Something else to remember is that the tide turns first in the shallowest water.

So, when racing try to go with the tide when you can and try not to fight it. Say it's a Fog Race, you have rounded #19 and the next mark is #4. The tide book says it is high at the entrance, but we know the tide is still coming in. Let's say we have a prevailing northwesterly wind. I would head west across the bay on starboard tack and make a right onto port when I reach the ship channel that goes from #2 to #3 to #4. I think the tide here will be the swiftest and longest-lived as the ship channel is the deepest part of the bay, hence this is where the most kinetic energy is stored. When you round #4 check out what the current is doing. If it is still coming in head over closer to the west shore (the peninsula).

The tide should be a little less in shallower water and the other thing to remember is that the tide turns in the shallow water sooner.

After rounding #2 you're heading for the finish, and the tide is now going out. Sometimes I head for Native American Island (Gunther) for the shallowest water for less tide flow. Of course I have a Laser and can get away with running aground much more easily than a keel boat. I use this shadow from the tide as long as possible then bite the bullet and head across towards the finish. The alternative is to head for the city front shore (east) to get into a bit shallower water. One thing here to remember is not to get too close to the shore as it causes the wind to lift up higher and you will experience less wind velocity. Don't get greedy.

Here's a cool fact a long time kayaker told me. The tide in the inner reach (between Woodley Island and the city front) slows down before it does in the middle and outer reaches when it gets about halfway down in the cycle. This is because there is a mud bar that becomes exposed and stops the flow of water from Arcata Bay. When going across the bridge to Woodley Island look to your right (north), but not too long, and you can see this.

Remember, your Mommy loves you, but the tide don't! Go with the flow.

WHISTLER

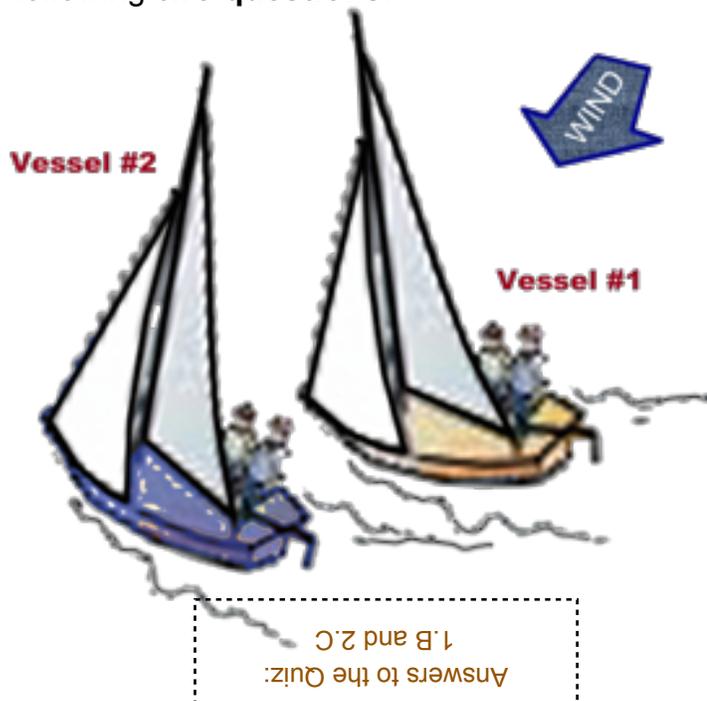
Quiz: Rules of the Road – Part 2

- by Mark Roundings -

As mentioned in last month's edition, the **Rule of Prudent Seamanship** would have you avoid any collision [in fact, *ColRegs* make this is the number one rule of maritime navigation].

However, there are '**Rules of the Road**' which determine which vessel should "**stand on**" [keep her course] and "**give-way**" [take early and substantial action to keep well clear].

You are Vessel #1. Using the boats' points-of-sail and the navigation rules, answer the following **two questions**:



- You are the
 - Stand-on boat
 - Give-way boat.
- Which rule applies here:
 - A boat to leeward shall give-way to a windward boat on the same tack.
 - A boat on a port tack shall give-way to a boat on a starboard tack.
 - A boat to windward shall give way to a leeward boat when on the same tack.
 - A boat on a port tack shall give-way to a boat to windward.

keeping a weather eye:

Mar. 3	Social Hour - 1700 hrs
Mar. 6	Potluck - 1900 hrs
Mar. 13	Board Meeting - 1900 hr
Mar. 24	Whistler #1 - 1115

