



T e l l T a l e s



Commodore's Log by Derek Budd

Happy New Year!

The new year always brings hope and anticipation for good things to come. For some of us, it's getting back in shape or buying a new piece of equipment. For others it's a new boat or commitment to sail the boat we have better. Some of us will be doing projects on our boats during the off season. I have plans to make some minor enhancements to make my boat more comfortable and convenient. I'd be interested in hearing about boat projects any member have planned. For the Rogue Yacht Club, December is a short pause between the last year and plans for next year. The pause is good as it gives board members time to deal with the commitments of the holiday season without do club work.

But, it's now 2012 and we're ready to move "full steam ahead" on the plans for the events of the coming season. We'll put together the schedule in January and present it to the club during the Salmon Bake in February. In addition to the standard fare of trophy races and social events, the board has some new things in the works. Jay Harland is spearheading an effort to bring class racing back to the club in the form of Laser sailing. Lasers are plentiful, inexpensive and fun. Head to head class racing beats handicapped racing every time. You always know where you stand and there's no waiting to have the corrected times computed. I look forward to the full development of this plan. Start looking for your Laser, because you're going to want to play when you see your pals out there having fun.

Of course, there's more to the RYC than racing. After all, it is a "social club". Sailing is just a pretext for socializing with like minded people. I don't have any grand social plans to announce, but I do have a goal of working to encourage people to plan, attend and participate in the social events. If you have a fun idea for a group activity on the water or land we'd love to hear it. There will be a couple of social events planned before the sailing begins, so stay tuned and join us if you can. So, this is a time to enjoy the "off season" and make plans for sailing and social fun this spring and summer.

RYC 2012 Calendar

JANUARY

11--Wednesday: CLUB BUSINESS RYC Board Meeting.
TIME: 6:30 p. m.
PLACE: CSA Planning

FEBRUARY

25--Saturday: SOCIAL Annual Salmon Bake
& membership meeting

TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Girl Scout building
2001 N. Keene Way Drive

Across the street from North Medford High School.

RYC PROVIDES: Salmon, beef, coffee, tea and soft drinks.

YOU BRING: Hot side dish, salad, or dessert to share, your own place setting, anything to drink not provided above.

ALSO BRING: **\$5.00 each** to help cover the cost of the entrée also bring money for raffle tickets.

Your calendar to sign up for racing and social event committees.

Your Club Dues: This is your last chance to pay the discounted membership rate of \$75.00.

Around the Docks **Operations and Moorage Costs Rise in 2012**

Joel LeGrand, owner of the Howard Prairie Lake Resort, reports that after a summer of research by Terry Sauerbutts there will be changes in moorage costs at HP. Joel said that, "Terry has informed me that places like Lost Creek Reservoir charges \$580 to \$920 per season based on size of the craft, and Odell Lake (near Crescent Lake, OR) charges \$648 to \$756." "Our new prices for wet moorage," Joel commented, "will be \$550 for a buoy and \$600 for a slip." Joel continued, "We need to show the County that we are serious



about helping generate revenue and that it is certainly not over-priced in the market.” Increasing revenue will show the county that the resort is working towards helping to replace the aging marina docks. “We aren’t raising the prices just to raise the price,” he said, “we are just trying to break even with all of our overhead. Raising prices, within reason, in our camping and day use areas will help in this effort. We sure hope you understand the need for change.” Joel and Terry have had little or no negative feedback, commented Joel, from anyone they have discussed this probability.



The resort has traditionally maintained a level of quality service and security in the marina, and it has not raised moorage prices in several years; if this increase is what it will take to convince Jackson County to upgrade the aging docks, and help the resort to maintain the quality of service, security, and marina maintenance we are historically used to, a reasonable increase in fees seems fair.--ed.

Will New Year Freeze Out Weeds?

Weeds, weeds, weeds! Over the past three years the weeds in the marina have been getting worse (or maybe just healthier), causing problems of access especially for those sailboats on the jetty side of the dock. As the season progresses the weeds get taller



and the water level gets lower causing much difficulty for those craft that have a three foot plus draft. For the past three summers, the marina staff has put some effort into helping clear out those pesky flora between the docks (*photo upper right*); with considerable help from RYC members who have slips along the jetty side, the weed problem is temporarily placed in check (*photos left and lower right*).

Unfortunately, the weed problem seems to be getting worse with each passing year and discussion seems to vary from person to person as to how this weed problem should be solved. Some think aggressive dragging of the marina bottom early and often will help others believe that some kind of herbicide will make the problem go away, and others I have talked to think the cure to ending this problem is to have a solid freeze on the lake this winter. Whatever the solution there is a good chance that the weeds will be back next year. As we go to publication the Howard Prairie Lake area is getting rain and the lake has not begun to freeze. However, given the fickle nature of weather a freeze could still happen and often does in February. Let us hope that a freeze does come and proves the “freeze over will kill the weeds” people correct. Here’s to a good hard freeze in the new year.

Sailor's Corner No More Tangles A Good Way to Coil a Braided Line

One would think that coiling running rigging is a no brainer, just make overhand loops, but it seems that no matter what I do to any line that passes through blocks, fairleads, and clutches it inevitably gets a twist and suddenly jams. This twist (*known politely as a knuckle and more often by the name of a body part found much lower*) can cause unexpected problems while racing or cruising in moderate to strong winds. I personally experienced a sudden knock down while sailing my first boat, “Helios,” a Balboa 20. I was out sailing with a friend in 20 knot winds that were gusting to 25+. We were beating to the southeast near Buck Island on a port tack when we rounded the most southerly RYC mark; just then, as we shifted to a starboard reach four things happened: 1) the jib sheet twisted and jammed in a block, 2) the headsail backed, 3) the wind began a series of strong gusts, and 4) when Helios’ mast went nearly horizontal water began pouring over the gunwale into the cockpit. After a quick inspection and a hard yank on the starboard jib sheet the “knuckle” was relieved; the headsail passed through and Helios righted herself. In a smaller boat, or one that was not self-righting, all hands very likely would have gotten more than their feet wet. This got me thinking that there must be a better way to coil line to prevent those troublesome twists.

Most sailors I know make up their lines by looping, with an overhand clock-wise motion, making O-shaped coils. They do look pretty, those O-shaped coils, as idle lines, laying on the deck or hanging from a winch, but with a working line, moving through multi-part tackle, it can (will) develop twists that can catch and jam at the most inconvenient time causing you to untwist the line so it runs free again. One way



to avoid this inconvenient twist is by coiling the line in a figure-eight pattern.

Training a line to coil down in an oval, we give the body of the rope a full clockwise twist with our wrist as we take up each coil. However, a figure-eight coil is a more neutral configuration; One needs little or no twisting to get the coils laying fair. The line learns no bias making it less likely not to twist under load through a tackle. On racing boats it might be a good idea to stow all lines this way so there is no confusion among the crew and all lines are more likely to run free. Also, from what I have read, a figure-eight coil is often the only way to get a hybrid line (*low-stretch high-modulus core and a polyester cover*) to coil neatly.

Below is a link to an E-How video that demonstrates Fig. 8 coiling. http://www.ehow.com/video_2359116_coil-rope-sailing.htm

Winter Time is Social Time!

H o l i d a y ∞ P a r t y by Peter Cipes

Hosted by Jim and Nancy Smekal, the 2011 RYC Holiday Party was simply fabulous. Their home is a contemporary architectural treat which includes a variety of spaces, perfect for a party. Held Saturday December 10, the affair was well attended by around 30-35 RYC members.



Initially, as is common at these events, everyone gathered in the main great-room space which, of course, centers around the kitchen (and bar!).

After an exuberant hour or so of socializing, dinner was served buffet style around the huge kitchen island. As we were filling our plates with ham and turkey provided by the club, and loads of yummy side dishes prepared by members, Jim kept remind-



ing us that there were many places where we could sit to enjoy our meals; he encouraged us to go explore the house in order to find the one that best suited our taste. He actually invited us to, "Sit anywhere!" Along with some others,



Karen and I settled in at the dining room table (among other places), while others chose the family room, the entryway, the living room or the master sitting room. All in all this gathering was one of the best RYC social events I have ever attended. It felt like a "Hollywood A-List" party. Thanks to Jim and Nancy for being such gracious hosts and welcoming all of us into their superb home.

Warm wishes to all for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!

C l u b B u s i n e s s **No RYC Board Meeting in December, 2011**



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