



*Tell Tales*  
**Commodore's Log**  
 by Dick Barbara

**Looking Back, Looking Ahead**

At this time of the year, I tend to find myself looking back at what happened during the past year and looking ahead to what I'd like the upcoming year to hold. When I review the events of 2014, as it relates to our club, a lot was accomplished even though we had very little water at Howard Prairie. We began last year's RYC season in February with a well-attended Salmon Bake membership meeting. Most of the Wednesday evenings during last April and May were filled with racing at Emigrant Lake. Early last May, we held our annual Free Sail Classes with one evening in class and a Saturday of on-the-water instruction. Late May through mid July we pull-off the Ice Breaker, Jensen and Stamm, our perpetual trophy races, closely followed by an early Southern Cascade Regatta. After our regatta, things quieted down a bit at the lake due to the low water levels which disabled the boat ramp. Many of us filled August with club duties, such as pulling the barge and cleaning and organizing the shed/club house or traveled to distant lakes and oceans to fill the sailing void. Also in August, we gathered at the Bella Fiori Winery for a pleasant evening of wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres and sailor talk. September brought us our membership meeting at Angelo's Pizza where we installed a modified/recycled board of directors and made some decisions regarding our future.

And now to look ahead... your RYC board has developed goals for the upcoming sailing season based on the optimistic prediction of a wet and cold winter providing enough water for a full season of races and social events. If Mother Nature doesn't provide all the precipitation that we need to keep our boats in the water all season, we will adjust our calendar accordingly. Currently, we are looking a little above average for rainfall, yet a bit behind on snowpack. We are doing much better than last year at this time. Last New Year's Day, Jeanne and I took a hike to the top of Mount Ashland where we found a few small patches of snow. Today there is approximately 2 feet on the summit. Besides finding a few patches of snow last year, we also ran in to Mark and Cindy Warwick at Mt. Ashland's summit! Along with this full calendar of events, we plan to expand our youth sailing outreach program by purchasing 3 Sunfish sailboats. These boats are affordable, durable and easy to sail. A fleet of one-design boats will make it possible to get more kids on the wa-

ter at the same time. These boats can also be used by club members.

Our treasurer, Cindy Broadwater, will be hosting an event at Lost Creek Lake on New Year's Day called the *Polar Bear Cruise*. From 10 to noon, hearty sailors will take their boats out braving the brisk conditions. Meet at the Lost Creek Lake Resort restaurant at 10:00 a. m. You need not have a boat in the water to participate.

Finally, I hope to see you all at Jesse and Katie Repp's house this Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 for our first ever Polar Bear Party!

**RYC 2015 Calendar**

**January**

**03 Saturday – SOCIAL – Polar Bear Party**  
 (Replaces Holiday Party in December)

**TIME: 6:00 p. m. for cocktails**

**PLACE: Jessie & Katy Repp's House**  
 514 Siskiyou Blvd.

**Ashland, OR 97520**

Look for the Blue House on the corner of Siskiyou and Union. Park on Union. **Club will provide the Entrée (meat & vegie lasagna). A - M bring a salad to share, N - Z bring desert to share, BYOB.**

**13 Tuesday – Board Meeting**

**February**

**28 Saturday – SOCIAL / BUSINESS**  
 Salmon Bake / Member Meeting

**TIME: 6:00 p. m.**

**PLACE: Girl Scout Building**  
 2001 North Keene Way Drive  
 Medford, OR 97504

**COST: \$5.00/person + Raffle Tickets**

**Last Chance for Discounted Dues \$75**

**APRIL**

**01, 08, 15, 22, 29 Wednesdays – RACE – Spring Series**

**15 Wednesday – Howard Prairie Lake Resort opens**

**MAY**

**02 Saturday – RACE / SOCIAL – Capture the Flag Race at Lost Creek Lake. More details to come.**

**06, 13, 20, 27 Wednesdays – RACE – Spring Series**

*(Calendar continued on page 5)*



## C r u i s e r ' s   C o r n e r **Great Barrier Reef Sailing Adventure**

*Article and Photos provided by Frank Hoeper*

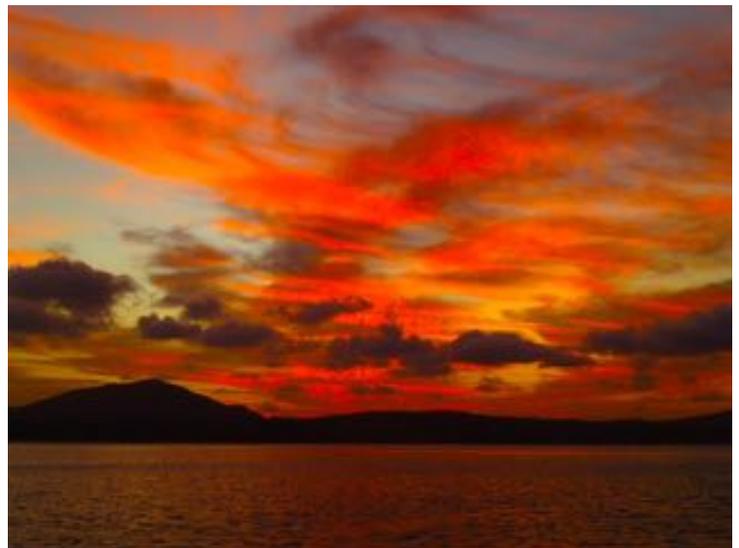
I was able to cross off one of my bucket list items this past October and November when I was asked by a friend to



help crew his 38 foot Beneteau sloop in the Australian waters of the Great Barrier Reef. (Cindy had to miss this trip, business duties kept her grounded). Where the water circles the drain in a counter-clockwise fashion, where there are no familiar constellations in the sky other than the Southern Cross, where the waters are a beautiful blue, and the coral and fish are spectacular splashes of color. Where dangerous aquatic creatures such as stonefish, stingrays, box jellyfish, and salt-water crocodiles inhabit the waters, and where graceful schools of dolphins ride bow waves. Such things helped make my Australian sailing adventure a very fun and perhaps a once in a lifetime experience. We sailed about 750 miles north up the coast from Bundaberg to the Whitsunday Islands and the Great Barrier Reef. It was a navigational challenge to pick our anchorages as we island hopped northward, factoring in the wind direction and speed, the tides, the snorkeling possibilities, and in some cases, the potential to explore on foot some of the mostly undeveloped



and untrammled tropical islands and beaches utilizing the dinghy. We were able to anchor, or tie off to buoys and snorkel fantastic coral reefs right from the boat. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef system on earth and also one of the best managed marine areas in the world, which is designated as a World Heritage Area. Some of the most popular bays had restrictions on anchoring so as to avoid damaging the coral reef, so some planning was needed to be able to tie off on one of the National Park buoys. But the planning was worth it since we experienced some incredible natural



playgrounds. And talk about sunsets!

For the most part, we experienced moderate trade winds and seas 1-2 meters, but for several days, we had higher wind and seas up to 5 meters, which made for some interesting sailing indeed. We had fantastic weather, as the southern hemisphere is transitioning to summer in October while the northern hemisphere is heading into fall/winter. The cyclone season begins November 1 in those waters, but there was no sign of storm development while we were there, thankfully.

Anyway, if you are seeking a sailing adventure in a remarkable place, I highly recommend checking out the Great Barrier Reef, and particularly the Whitsunday Islands. That area has to





be in the top five areas for cruising anywhere in the world. The islands provide great anchorages no matter what the conditions, whether the southeast trades are happening, or the winds are out of the north, and the sailing and snorkeling/diving are fantastic. If you want to sail 20 or 25 miles a day, and stay within sight of land, the Whitsundays are a good choice. It reminded me some of the San Juan Islands, but unlike the San Juan Islands, it is windy, and the water is warm. There are resorts on several of the islands, offering great restaurants



and interesting places to explore. We were lucky enough to find a sports bar on Hamilton Island that had a World Series feed, so we were able to watch the Giants win it all. The people are very friendly, and the local beer and rum can't be beat, although everything costs about twice as much as it does in the States. A strong US dollar against the Australian dollar helps right now, though. All in all, it was a great trip down under!



## R a c e r ' s C o r n e r

### **Being in a Racing State of Mind**

*Article by Vice Commodore Jesse Repp, RYC*

Being successful at racing a sailboats requires a lot of practice and preparation. It is also about being comfortable at the limits of your boat. Making the right decision in tight quarters can often make the difference between the winning and losing. So how do we get comfortable on our sailboats.

#### **1. Know Your Boat.**

Knowing your boat also involves knowing your boat. Seems kind of redundant but it is very important. Take an active role in boat setup and maintenance. If you have regular crew this means them too. Know how the lines are run, understand your rudder assembly, know where all through hull fittings are; the more you know about your boat the easier it is to identify when something is wrong and what you can do to fix it.

Develop a routine around racing. Have a plan you follow to check bolts and fitting, make sure lines are run free and ensure all standing rigging has proper safety rings and terminators. Its the responsibility of every person on the boat to help identify potential issue before they become problems.

Most sailboat and sail manufacturers have tuning guides for their boats. A tuning guide is a great reference for optimal boat settings for various conditions and will help make any day on the water more comfortable. A properly set up boat with good sail trim is easier to sail and provide better control and boat feedback. Know how much cunningham your boat needs upwind in 15 knots of wind, and know how to move your jib cars when the wind gets light. We will focus more on tuning in later months.

#### **2. Know Your Environment.**

Every body of water has some variable that adds a certain level of complexity to a race. The Chesapeake has moving shallow sand bars, the San Francisco Bay has crazy currents, and Howard Prairie Lake has changing water levels that affect what areas of the lake are safe to sail. Having a good understanding of how these variables will help make smart decisions on the water. The more comfortable you are with these variables, the more advantage you have.

Study maps, study tide charts, know the race course, and talk to experienced sailors.

#### **3. Know The Rules.**

Read the rule book. Read the rule book again. If you do not have a copy of the sailing rules... The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2013-2016 are available on the ISAF website.

*(Article continued on page 4)*



#### 4. Practice. Practice. Practice.

Practice is not going out for a sail. Practice is working through difficult mark roundings, sail changes, or boat handling to the point it becomes second nature. Practice requires sailing in all conditions with the same intensity.

Practicing teaches you to learn how to recover from mistakes. You cannot be comfortable recovering from a breach unless you do it a few times. Practice makes you comfortable getting to the start line on time.

Go out in the middle of the lake and create a scenario to practice. Keep it simple and reinforce good habits. Break down complex maneuvers in to simple actions. Practice penalty turns, practice hitting marks, practice man overboard drills.

Practice is also a time to experiment. Play with unusual sail settings, use your instruments to understand what works and why. Have crew learn and become comfortable with other jobs.

The goal of practicing is getting your head out of your own boat and on to the race course. Practice properly implemented allows a boat to become quiet. Everyone knows their job, and communication become meaningful to race tactics instead of boat procedure.

#### 5. Race

The only way to become a better racer is to race. Have a strategy for the race but do not be afraid to change tact. Be confident, be aware, be safe. You know your boat, you know the rules and you know how to make the boat go fast. Don't be afraid to protest. This is how we learn. Take a risk now and then, every once in a while; they pay off. Thank you all for reading and I am looking forward to a long racing season ahead.

## C l u b   B u s i n e s s

### **RYC Board Meeting: December 11, 2014**

#### M i n u t e s

**Present:** Dick Barbara, Commodore; Cindy Broadwater, Treasurer; Jay Harlan, Rear Commodore; Karen McLain, Secretary; and Jesse Repp, Vice Commodore

**Call to order** at 6:10

Reading and approval of minutes (Karen)

#### **Reports:**

- **Treasurer's report** by Cindy: no changes since last month, received registration for chase boat but does not need to happen until the end of the

year. Barge does not need to be registered but trailer does. No expenses and no income. Set up Quick books, spread sheets need to be worked on, will look at bank statement before I finalize. Bank has \$8456.77. Cindy worked with Bill Horton on the memberships and there were 64 names on list so she would like to put flyer out to get member dues mailed out in December and also send to Oregon State Marine board list of boaters (include date for salmon bake and polar bear party).

- **Calendar:** Racing calendar is in the 2015 file. Start off with full schedule. Following in trend with last year (9 races for spring every Wednesday night, etc). May 2 will be a "capture the flag" race at Lost Creek lake (camping facilities are there). Jesse likes the single classroom day for the free class sail (Thursday May 6 in classroom and May 9 on the water). Dick mentioned using same curriculum to teach the St. Mary students the week of May 18 during school hours but will require volunteers. Barge launch May 16. Whiskey Town race May 23-24, final spring race is May 27, ice-breaker is May 30. Summer series starts June 13, Jensen June 20 Regatta will be July 11 -12 (reach out to Snipes). Commodore's cup August 8, Summers series 4 is August 15, Johnson Sept 12. Add winery social to calendar in August. Cindy would like to schedule an event on October 10 (TBD). Jay made motion to approve racing calendar and it was approved. Patrick to add social events to calendar which will include Salmon bake is February 28.

#### **Old Business**

- Budget - Proposed budget is on the One Drive. Patrick to add proposed budget for social. Jeanne



to add regatta budget. Added fee for Pear Blossom parade entry.

- Polar bear party is January 3 at Jesse Repp's home 514 Siskyou Blvd, Ashland at 6:00. Everyone to bring dish for potluck and club will pay for meat.
- Small boat fleet is still in process. Move toward getting 3 sunfish.

### New Business

- Possible Polar bear parade at Lost Creek Lake.
- Membership procedures – discussion about collecting dues for next year.
- Jay to buy computer for club
- Jay to contact insurance company regarding fees.
- Next meeting on January 13

## RYC 2015 Calendar (continued)

### MAY

06 Thursday—**EDUCATION**

Free, Introduction to Sailing Course. Classroom session.

TIME & PLACE: TBA

09 Saturday—**EDUCATION**

Free, Introduction to Sailing Course: On the water session

TIME & PLACE: TBA

16 Saturday—**CLUB WORK**—Committee barge launch.

TIME & PLACE: TBA

18-22 Monday-Friday—**EDUCATION**—Introduction to Sailing Course for students at St. Mary's School: Classroom sessions daily.

NEED: RYC members to volunteer to help with instruction.

23-24 Saturday/Sunday—**RACE**—Whiskeytown Regatta

30 Saturday—**RACE**—Ice Breaker Trophy

Our commodore found a way to bring his holiday spirit and his need to work on his boat together in a way to honor the season.

**H A P P Y N E W  
Y E A R  
E V E R Y O N E !**





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