



**SLOOP  
TAVERN  
YACHT  
CLUB**

# Anchorline

Volume 2007

Issue 1

January 2007

In this issue:

New Commodore's  
Words

Baja  
Ha Ha

Old Commodore's  
Words

Membership  
Renewal

Iceberg Regatta  
Feb. 3rd  
don't miss it!

Blakely Rock  
Benefit Regatta  
March 7th!



## DOGBARK TransPac

In the "Better Late than Never" department, We'd like to point out that Sloop Member Al Hughes sailed his Open 60 "Dogbark" to Line Honors in the 2006 Singlehanded Transpac race. He also was the first boat to finish in the 2004 race.

The race is biannual affair from San Francisco to Kauai. This year there were 16 entries ranging from Al's Open 60 to a Dana 24. The race was marked by light air at the beginning which saw the competitors loitering in the vicinity of the Farallones for an extended period.

While Al finished almost 2 days before the next competitor, it wasn't enough to save his time. He corrected to 3<sup>rd</sup> in class and 5<sup>th</sup> overall.

The Singlehanded Transpac is a very collegial affair, and a sense of that can be found on the website. There's a log of emails sent by the various competitors during the race (and the return trip). Here's the link: <http://www.sfbayss.org/TransPac/transpac2006/index.html>

Congratulations Al!



## Past Commodore Kirk's Goodbye

This is my last message as I am now Past Commodore. Neil Bennett is your new Commodore. I have enjoyed the last two years as Commodore and am proud of the things we have accomplished. I will be stepping back and assisting with membership and the Blakely Rock Benefit Regatta. I want to thank all of you for making this club what it is.

One of the things I was behind as Commodore is our new website. I have been learning plenty about websites in the last year. One of the big things I have been finding out about is an increase in incidences of e-mail fraud. I thought a new site would be easy but it isn't. We have as a club taken precautions to protect personal information on our site. The first step was making everything password protected that contained personal information. The second step we took was to make the site a secure web site. You will notice it is now https instead of http. The S stands for secure. The third and last step we need to take is to have all members opt in to allow their personal information to be on the website. The personal information we keep on the website is name, phone number, boat name, boat type, PHRF information, and e-mail address. This information is only available to STYC Officers, Board Members, the STYC Webmaster, and each individual member has access to their own personal data. This is how we plan to keep it.

In order to further protect personal information we took off all personal contact information on the STYC website as of today January 2nd 2007. After this date the STYC Webmaster will repost the personal information above ONLY with the approval of those members who wish to have their personal information on the website.

You can respond with your choice to "opt in" by sending me an e-mail to skirklandutter@yahoo.com stating your wish. (Your personal contact information will include your name, phone number, e-mail address, boat name, boat type, and PHRF information. Further this information will only be available to you, STYC officers, STYC board members, and the STYC Webmaster.) If you do not respond your personal contact information will not be available in any form or by any means on the STYC Website. If you have any questions feel free to contact me via e-mail.

Thank you all for a wonderful two years as Commodore.      Kirk Utter

## Past Commodore Kirk's New Job

Hello,

I may be done being Commodore but your not rid of me yet. I have agreed to help with membership duties and try to increase our membership and create more events where we as members have a chance to gather. In keeping with this mission we will be having a membership renewal party at the Sloop Tavern on Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup>. I will be there at 5:00 PM until 12:00 AM to gather membership renewal forms and the requisite money. Come on by the Sloop, have a beer, get dinner, meet other Sloop Tavern Yacht Club Members, and drop off your membership dues. If you have already renewed your membership for 2007 come by anyway and see other club members. If you know of someone thinking about joining STYC bring them by this evening.

I hope to see you there.

Thank You,  
Kirk Utter

## BaJa Ha Ha 2006

As if all you Sloopers didn't know by now, the Baja Ha-Ha is the cruiser rally and race put together by the crew of Latitude 38, featuring the Grand Poobah and his Head Honcho (Richard and Lauren Spindler, respectively). The fleet departed San Diego on October 30<sup>th</sup> bound for Cabo San Lucas, with scheduled stops at Bahia de Tortugas (Turtle Bay) and Bahia Santa Maria. It is 750 miles of downwind sailing with three legs of approximately 360 miles, 240 miles, and 180 miles.

This year's fleet had about 175 registered boats, from heavy displacement cruisers to downwind sleds to multi-hulls, and even a few trawlers too. The fleet was divided into divisions, and if you want to race, well, you can race. It's casual racing, as you can motor when you want. The elapsed time is recorded, and winners are determined using some formula no one quite understands. Bribery is common; beer in exchange for fleet recognition.



Some of the more prominent boats included the Alaska Eagle, a S&S 65 and Kialoa 111, a S&S 80. Tried as we did, no way to keep pace with those machines. The smallest boat was a Flick 20, who is reported to be on its way to the Marquesas later this year.

So this year, I finally did it. After reading about the Ha Ha for at least the last 6 years, I decided this year I wasn't going to just read about it, I was going to be a participant; somehow, someway. Unable to take Far Niente, my Westsail '42 south for the rally, I was fortunate enough to land a crew position on Francesco, a Rafiki 37 out of Gig Harbor. For all those like me who yearn to join the fun, I can only say, go for it. It's a great combination of warm downwind sailing, casual racing, and commoderie. And the beach parties at Turtle Bay and Bahia Santa Maria were as surreal an experience as you can imagine. From the desert of Baja California, cold cervesas and a live band on generator power appear out of nowhere.



I had wondered just how a group of 170 boats plus along with hundreds of cruising folk could be organized into any kind of meaningful fashion. After 13 years, I guess it kind of gets figured out. The morning net calls on both SSB and VHF were structured in such a way as to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. Whatever problems a boat may have experienced, and there were some, the support structure was there to lend a helping hand. And the accounting of all boats, each and every day, assured that anyone who might have gotten themselves into trouble would be 'on the radar screen'. For anyone beginning a cruise, the Ha Ha is a great way to go. My only suggestion to improve the experience; learn to speak some Spanish. To be able to speak with the locals, kids and adults alike in their language, puts an entire new dimension on the interaction. You are no longer seen as just a rich gringo; you can become, in a way, a local too.

I'm already making plans for 2007. Anyone planning to go, here's my pitch for an experienced crew to help you out. What a deal, uh?

Derek DuNaan of S/V Far Niente



**Dogbark Pics**



Use your words. Put simply, this means speak what you are thinking. First of all, I want to reiterate what I said at the wonderful Sloop Tavern Christmas party, while honoring outgoing Commodore Kirk Utter, "we are (the membership), in forever 'indebtitude' to his efforts, and we wish him fair winds and following seas in which ever course he steers." While Kirk has been at the helm, the Sloop has grown in activity, membership, and service to community. Damn big flip-flops to fill.

So, helm's a lee, we are tacking and all of the Board members will be trimming strings:

- Kirk will be continuing to serve as Past Commodore and Membership Chair while Dick Roberts will continue to serve as race committee chair. Dick and Kirk will work closely together to coordinate these two important positions;
- Nigel will be serving as Vice Commodore and coordinating most of the racing events;
- New board member Park Densmore will be very involved in assisting me in promoting the Blakely Rock Benefit Race;
- New Secretary Dave Marod will endeavor to capture the board minutes with the same vigor as Nigel;
- Paul and Christopher will be working closely with Nigel to produce another outstanding Race to the Straits;
- Dan will be continuing to build on the outstanding success he has already achieved in his cruising fantasy;
- Stu will continue to represent the voice of reason and assist us in our handicapping needs;
- Chris will continue to nurture the money tree that allows us to do everything that we do.

What I hope to accomplish this year is continued membership growth, continued growth in yacht club activity, and increased service to community. I have some ideas, some of them may be good and some of them probably bad.

First of all, in the area of membership growth, instead of getting taller or wider, let's think about becoming more diversified. While researching the history of 'the Sloop', I read that we are all about 'being a special place that has attracted sailors with a sense of fun and adventure.' So, who are you docked next to? Give them Kirk's number, or better yet, get their number and give it to Kirk. Any idea to introduce sailing to those who don't, or to bring new members into the club is worth exploring.

We offer some great races and activities that truly attract the widest range of sailors I have ever seen! Let's do more. Let's make a scene – Poulsbo should offer us reserved rafting and Port Madison should dredge the entry for us! Port Townsend has raised the bar for hospitality for the 2007 R2S, so everyone get ready and Let's Go! I am sure there are PHRF racers who, like me, are a little behind in re-measuring our sails; we will appreciate the efforts Stu and Bob are making to arrange a date to get this done. Watch the website for details.

Finally, in service to community, I am incredibly proud of the Sloop's historical accomplishments and hope to live up to the standard that has been set by every Commodore who has served before me. We have already received two major donations for our raffle, which tells me we have achieved notice in the community. I am looking forward to hosting this race and working with the Ballard Senior Center to learn a few new jokes.

Garufa and I look forward to seeing you on the water....

Neil

***Moving? Change of Address?***  
Please notify the club secretary  
with your new phone and email



# Anchorline

## CONTACTS

### 2007 Board Members (Voting)

Commodore: Neil Bennett neil@osc-voc.com 206 937 9726 (H)

Vice Commodore: Nigel Barron nigelbarron@yahoo.com 206 334 8508 (H)

Secretary: Dave Marod spellboundskpr@hotmail.com 206 399 0097

Treasurer: Chris Halstead howdydog@aol.com 425 868 5356

Board Pos. 1 (thru 2008): Park Densmore ubj35@qwest.net 206 786 2092

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Board Pos. 3 (thru 2007): Christopher Butler c65butler@gmail.com 206 334-6382

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Handicapper, Under 30': Bob Bonney sea\_bob@w-link.net 206 524 5672

Handicapper, Over 30': Stu Farrell svdiva@yahoo.com 206 854 9500

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*Sloop Tavern YC web site:*

<http://www.slooptavern.org>



### SAILING QUIZ #12

which of these  
modes seems best  
for 2007 winter  
sailing?



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