

THE



PILOT

The Monthly Newsletter of the Inverness Yacht Club

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YOUTH SAILING

Pat White

COMMODORE'S COLUMN

September 2008

What an honor. A few years ago when I was asked to become a Board member I guess I was aware that this was a path that could lead to becoming Commodore one day, but I never imagined it would happen and gave it no thought. And now it has happened.

I am both greatly honored and awed by this responsibility, and promise to give the job my best efforts. This Club deserves no less, and I fervently hope my best efforts are good enough. I do know that I will need help and much guidance along the way, and ask that everybody feels free to contact me with comment, suggestions or questions. My e-mail address is peter.lassetter@comcast.net. Please use it. Alternatively, I intend to keep serving behind the bar on Open House evenings. Please come and talk to me.

Article II of our Bylaws states that the purpose of the Club is "...for recreation, pleasure and other not for profit purposes, including serving as a nucleus for adult and youth sailing and social activities in the community and on Tomales Bay." And later "The term "pleasure" includes the pleasure of members in engaging in their recreational and social activities in the environment of the rural landscapes, viewsheds and tranquility of Tomales Bay".

I will take this as my guide for the year ahead, and add to it only that we must maintain the current and future fiscal health of the Club.

This is a volunteer club, and it relies on the unseen work of many volunteers. First I would like to thank our volunteers for the year ahead in advance. I am sure you will continue to do a great job, a job for which we are all grateful. And we will need more of you. On the few occasions that I actually volunteer, I am always reminded that volunteering at this club is fun. I always feel good about it and members are always very generous with their thanks. Please try it – you will have many rewards.

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COMMODORE'S COLUMN. Cont.

As ever the Nominating Committee has done a splendid job for us this year. I am delighted to welcome Jim Laws (Treasurer), Mardi Brayton (Secretary) and Malcolm Fife (Director) to the IYC 2008 – 09 Board. Thank you for agreeing to serve, I am most grateful.

Ken Emmanuel is stepping down as Director after providing much insightful work and advice. His many years in Sacramento enabled him to help enormously with issues of environmental legislation and the future recreational use of Tomales Bay. I am sure there will be many future occasions when he will be sought out for more advice.

Hobey Landreth is also handing over the reins as Secretary after many years of service, and I know we all thank him for his constant attendance at the meetings, and his quick and accurate follow up with the minutes. No pressure Mardi, but this guy was good!

Win Black has done a superb job over the years as our Treasurer, and he also is ending that tenure. Fortunately for us, however, he is continuing on the Board as Rear Commodore, and I look forward very much to having his wise and cheerful attendance at our future Board meetings.

How many times can you say thank you in a column? Just one more. John Speh, our out going Commodore, has had a marvelous year. He has provided leadership, hard work, and behind the scenes council of the highest order. John, the membership has had a great year, and it was because of you. We all thank you very much indeed, and very much hope you go on to enjoy your Staff Commodoreship. GREAT JOB.

Peter Lassetter

M E M B E R S H I P

Approved for Membership: The Board approved **Elmira Lake** as an Honorary Member

Proposed for Membership: **Max Brier**, Junior Member.

Proposer; Andrew Brier, Seconders; Mary Anne Brier and Camilla Biller.

Resignations: **Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Swisher**

Newly combined Membership: **Connie Gilmar and Harvey M. Freed**

NOTICES

CLUB RENTALS

Wednesday September 10th

Noon to 3pm

Inverness Garden Club

October 25th will see the Inverness Yacht Club invaded. Invaded by pirates! (And right before Halloween!)

The same group what brung ye the Renaissance Dinners, brings ye a feast ye will not forget.



Bring yer eye patches, yer headscarves and yer appetites.

Three delectable courses for yer palates and fine entertainment awaits ye.

Be ye warned, dine at yer own risk. Costumes admired, pirate costumes especially admired!

Samuel Neilson Hinckley, Jr. – 1915 -2008

From the early 1960's, Sam Hinckley was a devoted member of the Inverness Yacht Club. Sam and his wife, Helen, from whom he was divorced many years later, bought a house in Inverness to use on weekends and in the summer, a refuge from their busy lives in Menlo Park and Sam's career in San Francisco. They bought their Inverness Mesa house, thereafter christened "Toad Hall" from the estate of Jessie Craig Lovell, the Inverness school teacher. Jessie had no family, so the Hinckleys bought the house lock, stock and barrel. All of Jessie's personal property came along with the house. It took more than a year to go through the drawers, cupboards, closets, and the attic. Vintage clothes, fine china, interesting bits of furniture, all became the Hinckleys' and they enjoyed their heritage from Jessie to the hilt.

Sam and Helen delighted in introducing their friends to Inverness. A favorite occasion was the Inverness Yacht Club annual meeting always held on Labor Day weekend, a good time for house guests. In those days, the early 60's, women were not admitted to membership in the IYC nor were they allowed to speak at the annual meeting. Hinckley houseguests were impressed, if not horrified, by this quaint remnant of 19th century discrimination which by the mid 60's was voted down by the IYC membership.

Sam's early life was emblematic of the distinguished New England family he was born to. The Hinckleys arrived in Massachusetts from England in 1634 and played important roles in the colonies from earliest times. Sam graduated from Groton and Harvard, moving west after college. He worked as a stock broker at several of the San Francisco investment houses including Harris Upham and Davis Skaggs. While at Groton he formed a strong friendship with the novelist, Louis Auchincloss, who recalled Sam in a New Yorker article in spring, 2008. He leaves two children, Samuel H. Hinckley of Marin County and Helen (Bunny) Beekman of New York, and four grandchildren. Young Sam has served IYC in every way from "Most improved sailor" in the IYC Junior sailing program many years ago, to his position now as staff commodore.

Although Sam Hinckley's health prevented him from spending much time at his beloved "Toad Hall" in recent years, his affection and support for the Inverness Yacht Club continue to inspire the members who knew him or knew of him to sustain his spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm for all of the club's activities.

Contributed by Jim and Maggie Gault

Editor's Postscript: On a recent evening at "Toad Hall" Sam Jr. recalled his father's fondness for a good party. Amongst his last words were "Will there be champagne?" He was assured there would be.

JUNIOR SAILING

IYC Youth Sailing Regatta 2008

The conditions were ideal for the Inverness Yacht Club 2008 Youth Sailing Regatta. It was a classic Tomales Bay Day, warm, blue skies, and the breeze building. There was a good turn out of 24 eager sailors split between the fleets of Optimists (Opti's), El Toros, Lasers, all one person boats and Flying Juniors (FJ's), a 2 person boat.

A regatta is a series of races with the combined scores determining the winners. The participants included sailors from the recently completed Session 1 of the IYC Youth Sailing Program and Sailors in Session 2 who had just finished up the second of their three week session. The regatta was also open to and included Club Junior Sailors (Under 18).

The Opti's and El Toros sailed together and had the same starts. 7 races were conducted for this combined fleet. The sailors rotated boats after every other race to equalize any advantage that might be gained from a faster boat. All of the place finishers received engraved medallions noting their accomplishment. The 1st Place finisher for the Opti's was Corey Alt. His name will be engraved on the Club's St. Columba "Chalice" Trophy. 2nd Place went to Cameron Rosen, and 3rd Place Sophie Payne. The first place finisher for the El Toro Open Regatta was Jackson Karlenzig. His name will be engraved on the perpetual "Spade" Trophy. 2nd Place went to Lindsey Watters, 3rd Place to Owen Karlenzig.

The Lasers and FJ's also sailed together. 8 races were conducted for this combined fleet. As the FJ is a 2 person boat the sailors rotated skipper and crew for the first two races and then returned to the dock and rotated to a new boat and partner. With this "round robin" format the sailors changed boats and partners 4 times for the 8 races. They were scored both in skipper and crew positions. This format really makes for a good test of overall sailing ability. The 1st Place finisher was Brennan Potts. His name will be engraved on the Tom Blackaller, Sr. "All Rounder" Trophy. 2nd place went to Cordelia Peters, and 3rd, to Matt Borglin. In the Laser Open Regatta, the winner was Zack Borglin. His name will be engraved on the Duncan Patterson "Dolfin" Trophy. 2nd place went to Jasper Blunk and 3rd place to Connor Rosen.

Cameron Rosen was also awarded the Alice Scarborough Award for the Most Improved Second Year Sailor. The Race Committee was well managed by Instructors from the Youth Sailing Program, Seamus Pettigrew, Walker Weir, and Eliza White, assisted by Brandon Rosen past participant in the program and older brother of Connor and Cameron.

It was a great day of sailing. The breeze was brisk enough to be challenging and the competition was close. The races were conducted right off of the Inverness Yacht Club dock where parents, friends, and Club members gathered to cheer on the Youth Sailors. The regatta was followed by a BBQ and awards ceremony at the Club. Another fun summer day on Tomales Bay!



FJ & Laser Fleet starting downwind after rounding the weather mark/ Opti & El Toros in the background.

JUNIOR SAILING



Cameron Rosen, Lindsey Watters, Corey Alt, Philip Bennett and Jackson Karlenzig



Lasers and Flying Juniors maneuver for the Start.
Photos and article: Pat White

DORNIN AND MARTINELLI

CARDWELL MASTERS HIGH WINDS, WINS TWICE.

by Hobey Landreth

The Inverness Yacht Club racing season reached the halfway point last weekend, with the completion of the Dornin and Martinelli Trophy races on Saturday and Sunday. Robert Cardwell sailed his newly purchased International 110 to wins on both days, putting him in the lead for the season championship series with four races remaining. Chris Waddell, also in a 110, picked up a second in Saturday's race, with Ned Congdon third in a Flying Scot. On Sunday it was Charles Gay placing second, and Mike Severson third, both in Flying Scots.

The weather for Saturday's race was brutal. Westerly gusts prior to the start foretold a very difficult sailing day. Eleven contestants signed up, but only five made it off the dock, and only three ultimately completed the course. Amongst the retirees were Mike Meszaros, who capsized his Flying Dutchman and broke the top of his mast in the mud, and Sam Hinckley, whose mainsail leach ripped to shreds prior to the start.

"It blew 20 to 25 miles an hour and did not relent," said 110 skipper Millie Biller, describing the conditions in the lower part of Tomales Bay. "We took gusts over 30, near 35, many times," concurred Chris Waddell. "I have never taken in that much water into the boat, and still be sailing it. The floorboards were floating around."

Once the three determined competitors cleared Tomasini Point, the breeze became more consistent and easier to manage. Cardwell moved his white fiberglass 110 into the lead past Waddell and the Flying Scot of Ned Congdon, and extended it during mark roundings north of Tomasini. "But eventually we were going to have to come back down to the Club (to finish), and sail through it again," said Cardwell later. Finish they did, in spite of a daunting jibing mark south of the Club.

On Sunday, the weather was far milder. All ten contestants that signed up managed to shove off, then cleared the starting line and headed down the bay on a port tack. Charles Gay and 110 skipper Jeff Hutter grabbed the early lead with close pursuit from the 110's of Cardwell, Waddell, Malcolm Fife and Millie Biller. The course called for another trip north of Tomasini, with two triangles to be completed in that wider area of the Bay, then a long return to the Club and finish.

Within a few tacks, Cardwell and Waddell had locked into a battle for the lead, while Sam Hinckley slid into third and Gay slugged it out with the rest of the 110's. Near the windward mark, Waddell crossed in front of Cardwell while on a port tack, and forced him to alter course. To correct his foul, Waddell performed a 720, two complete circles. Cardwell took the lead, and Hinckley also sailed past into second.

After four more legs, Cardwell's lead had expanded, Waddell had regained second, and Hinckley was hanging tough in third. But the Scots of Gay and Mike Severson were not far behind, and in the long downwind leg back to the club, the two centerboard Scots, with spinnakers set, sent spray flying and made significant distance back on the fixed-keel 110's.

Corrected time proved how much the Scots had benefited. Though Cardwell came away with the win, Gay's second and Severson's third indicate that the Scots will not go quietly this season. Waddell and Hinckley were relegated to 4th and 5th respectively.

TROPHY RACES



Enough wind to get the spray flying
and pelicans grounded!
Photos: Jim Laws

EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, August 30th	Hog Island Race Annual Meeting	11.00am 5.00pm
Saturday, September 6th	Myers Race	1.30pm
Saturday, September 13th	Board Meeting Open House	9.30am 5.30pm
Saturday, September 20th	Wells Trophy Race	1.30pm
Sunday, September 21st	Lake Trophy Race	2.00pm
Saturday, October 11th	Open House	5.30pm

“HOG ISLAND RACE”
& “ANNUAL MEETING”

Saturday, August 30th

Race starts at 11am,
 Bar opens at 5.30pm.
 Expect thirsty racers!

Inverness Yacht Club
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