



NEWSLETTER FOR BIG ISLAND BOATING

Beware of February winds and surge



The calm before the storm

The above picture of Reed's Bay taken last week appears calm and placid. But, boaters take warning.

Les Wachi, DLNR Harbor Agent and other experienced locals have long warned that February and March are the most dangerous months weatherwise for boats moored here.

Wachi says that high winds

from annual winter storms swirling north of the Big Island cause higher than usual surge in Hilo Bay and environs during this time.

Grenadier is damaged

On Monday, Feb 5th at about 4:00 p.m., a neighboring sailboat pulled loose from its mooring and slammed into the *Grenadier*, a Mariner '31 belonging to

club member John Messina. Messina called Club Secretary John Luchau for help, and after some hours the two succeeded in separating the boats, but not until the *Grenadier* had sustained extensive damage to her topsides and considerable hull damage as well.

The weather that day was overcast but relatively calm. However, surge from the north was causing heavier boats in the harbor, including the one that hit *Grenadier*, to hobbyhorse wildly despite the fact that there was little wind.

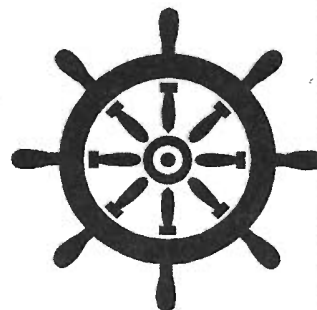
It's likely that Messina will have to move the boat to Gentry's boatyard in Kona to repair the damage. He may need volunteers to help him motor around the island.

Check your moorings, folks.

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Meeting Change — The meeting place for the upcoming potluck meeting on Mon., Feb. 12 has been changed to Onekahakaha Park Pavilion # 7 at 6 p.m.



Dinghy Delights by John M. Luchau

Tired of rowing back and forth to your boat with people, provisions, parts? Do you love to sail? When you are tired of rowing or that fussy outboard won't chug anymore, the sailing dinghy is the answer to your problems.

The dinghys pictured here can be homebuilt and fun to sail. They carry passengers and gear to and from your anchorage with a minimum of effort and a whole lot of fun. They provide a sail training platform for new sailors that can't be beat. And, once you've learned to sail a dinghy, you can sail anything.

Are you convinced? OK, now where do you get one? The upper picture is of John Messina sailing his homebuilt boat. There are many plans available and you only need to ask to get patterns from the hulls of

existing dinghys. In most cases owners will be happy to let you use their boats for patterns. Materials for the hull can be foam glassed together at the seams or one sheet of plywood cut and glassed at the seams. The dinghy pictured below is John Luchau's modified Naples Sabot which was a throwaway at the Ala Wai when "Oz" got underway for Guam. The only thing left was the hull which had been patched so many times that it weighed twice its normal 80lb displacement. He built a mast, boom, daggerboard trunk and seat, and used a rudder and tiller from a previously owned boat. The daggerboard is a cut down Laser daggerboard that was given to him. He bought the "new" sail from a Yacht Surplus store in Newport, CA. Or, you can buy one new.

Cost is approximately \$1700.00 for the dinghy and a sail kit. You can also talk to Richard Messina about his folding dinghy that can be ordered with a sail kit. It would be much easier to store and transport.

My Sabot sails to weather really well with the marconi sail and extra daggerboard area but watch out for the gusting trades on a windy day. You will get wet. Whatever your choice, you will never be without a whole lot of fun when sailing a dinghy:

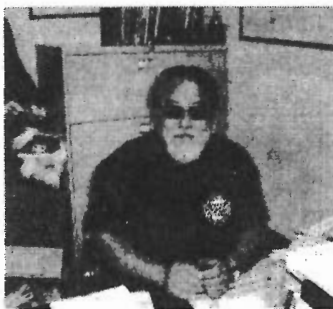
John Messina's new sail rig will give John L. some competition the next time they are out on the water together.

"So, you wanna race that dinghy?"



John Messina's dinghy in the top photo. John Luchau's dinghy in the bottom photo

Meet your Harbor Agent



Les Wachi

You may have already met Les Wachi, but if you haven't, you should. Les is the DLNR's Boating and Recreation agent and is responsible for the smooth running of small boat operations in and around Hilo Bay. He's the guy who registers boats, makes mooring assignments and moni-

tors the activities of small boating on this side of the island for the State of Hawaii.

"Boats have always been part of my life," says Les, who is an experienced boater and sailor with an 100-ton Captain's license. He currently owns a 25' Bertram fishing boat

named *Wild Turkey* and is thinking about becoming a commercial fisherman after his stint as Harbor Agent.

If you want to know more about local mooring conditions or get some advice about the types of moorings and anchors that work the best here, Les is the person to ask.

What's your opinion?

Editor's note: This section is dedicated to the opinions of readers. Please limit your opinions to 150 words or less. Mail your comments to Nā Hoa Holomoku, Box 1661, Keaau, HI, 96749, or send e-mail to jbmiles@gte.net. The opinions represented here are not necessarily those of the Nā Hoa Holomoku Yacht Club.

Luchau calls for an Emergency Response Team

The event of last week in which John Messina's Grenadier was severely damaged by

another boat coming off its mooring was an illustration of the need not only for having moorings that don't drag, but also for having an Emergency Response Team that could respond to similar situations before more boats are damaged or people are hurt.

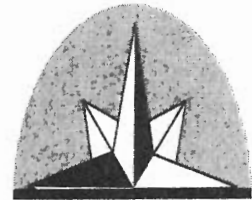
Due to heavy swells and the fact that *Pueo* and *Grenadier* were already entangled, John Messina and I had a hellish time separating them and preventing even more damage from occurring.

There's no doubt that we

could have used more help, both in terms of people and equipment.

By using a telephone tree or other communications system, our club could have a response team and a boat ready to go from Wailoa at a few moments notice. It could have all necessary gear onboard and ready, such as lines made up, a pump, lifejackets, etc.

If you are interested in forming, training and doing the response team thing, contact me via e-mail (SkiprJohn@aol.com) and let others know too.



"There's two things I recommend strongly to boaters in Hilo Bay — good moorings and good insurance."
—John Messina, Grenadier

Notices

- Barry Bolln has a new boat; a Cal 2-30 bought on Oahu a few months ago. After a somewhat hairy inter-island sailing adventure, he and fellow sailors Jim Lucas and Chuck Christiansen brought her into Radio Bay where's she'll stay until they move her to a mooring in Reed's Bay.
- Kayakers wanted: Various folks can be found kayaking, rain or shine, every Saturday morning in Hilo Bay environs. The group takes occasional camping and kayaking excursions to Kona. Call Pat Bolln (961-4474) for details.
- Interested in helping design a club burgee? Call Barbara Magnuson (966-7788).

—Want to post a notice? Send or e-mail it Jim Miles and he'll include them in the next newsletter.

Tips of the Month: Check your mooring now!!!

Sale, trade, services

Wanted: Solar panels for sail boat and miscellaneous boat hardware. Jim Lucas (966-4467)

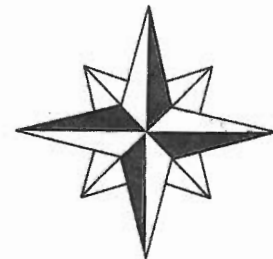
Wanted to buy: Two No. 10 single-speed winches. Jim Miles (965-8906)

Mauricio Barbis (969-7991)

offers expert boat repair and boat maintenance to club members at a reasonable hourly rate.

For sale: Canon 10X30 IS binoculars, hand-held VHF radio, Kestrel 1000 hand-held windmeter, hand-held compass, Grundig YB 400PE

short-wave and AM/FM receiver, Pelican 60,000 battery-op brightlight, Mark 25 Deluxe sextant, Celisticomp V navigational calendar. Contact Dr. P. Matsumoto (pmat@alohanet.com) for details.



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