



Winter

December 2009

Commodore Comments

Whale Watchers Photo Contest!

As 2009 washes in from the skies, it's a pleasure to find myself holding the tiller of Na Hoa Holomoku. The year ahead promises to be an exciting voyage - there will no doubt be some challenging conditions to weather at times, but the forecast promises smooth seas and fair winds for the bulk of the year. Of course, no boat sails without a crew, and it's great to have such a wonderful crew along for the voyage - both the officers and directors of the club and most importantly of all, all of you, the members of NHH.



A Humpback Breaching off of Honolii

We're planning to run our two regular sailing events each month, sailing 101 and club sail day, as well as the usual monthly potluck, work day and board meeting. We have a number of upcoming additions to our fleet that I wanted to highlight. The club recently gratefully accepted the donation of a Hobie 16, which we are planning to store down at the beach alongside the dinghies to make her more readily available for sailing.

While she needs a little work and a few new parts, she'll be a sprightly sister to our Hobie Getaway and I'm sure will liven up sailing activities for those of us who sometimes feel the need for speed.

Once again the Humpbacks are appearing off of the East coast of the Big Island. This sailing Sunday, Jan. 25th, why not grab your camera and head on down to KK park at 10:30 am and crew on one of the big boats for a 'sailfari'? Even if this is too early, you could meet us at our Bayfront beach tent, as there will be whale-watching cruises leaving throughout the day.

That's not all; Na Hoa Holomoku is having a photo contest entitled "The Eye of the Whale". Send in your best whale shots and if your photo is selected as the winner, you will receive a gift certificate for a dinner for two at Pesto's.

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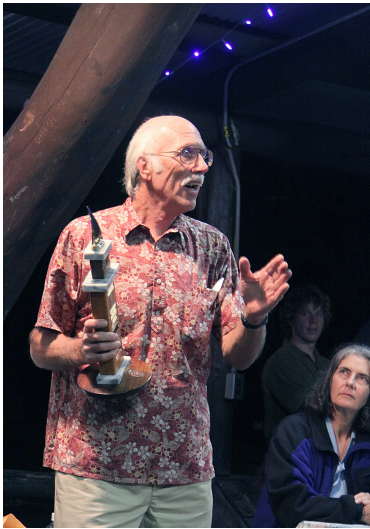
2009

The Winter Holiday Potluck Party



Above: Early Arrivals

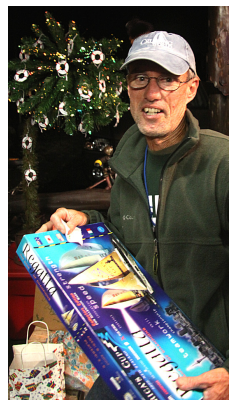
Below: The Sailing Trophy Soliloquy



Below: The Gift Exchange (Stealing)



Left: Time to Feast!!!



The winter Holiday potluck was a jolly good affair, full of merry sailors, a truly sumptuous feast, spiced with a bevy of nautical yarns and our own complicated version of 'steal this gift' exchange.



Left: The Gift We All Wanted!

The Big Boat Training Classes



Above: Capsize drill

Fall Training classes for sailing the big boats included instruction both in the classroom and on the water. As John Luchau reported concerning the classroom instruction, "Twenty students attended some (of the classes) and took exams. Of those 20, 14 passed "Parts of Our Boat," 10 passed "Sailing Theory," 12 passed "Safety and Rules of the Road" and 12 passed Knots. These are the students who passed everything: Conlon, Shawn, Alex, Laura, Greg, Shane, Jay and Kelly. Erick and John Tucker just need Knots." Congratulations to all those who passed the sailing exams, and doff your hats to all those who assisted John in teaching the classes. If you are interested, the sailing classroom instruction will start up again on Friday Jan 23rd. Classes meet at the University of Hawaii-Hilo at 6:30, room UCB 103 .Since most of those taking the classes expressed interest in blue water cruising, in the upcoming newsletters look for the articles on how to select a blue water cruiser.



Sailing 101

"The Wind is magic!

Magic by definition is unseen forces.

As a sailor you're playing with magic."

--Jon Olson



From "Comments" Page 1

Still on the catamaran front, Ho'okipa, our 32' racing catamaran is slowly but surely recovering from her injuries, thanks to lots of hard work. We'll have her sailing again soon, and she promises an exciting ride for anyone daring enough to come along. I deliberately saved mention of Private Dancer to the end of my list, though not because of any nautical reason; Dancer is a 26' folk-boat, identical in most ways to Cheers, though is currently in dry dock in Dave Partlow's yard for repairs and many new coats of paint. When she's back in the water later this year we'll have doubled the size of our folk-boat fleet and I look forward to seeing the smooth and classic lines of not one, but two folk-boats cruising back into the bay after a day out on the open ocean. Still, I saved my mention of Dancer until last because it allows me to lead neatly into a few words about Ron Reilly. Ron has been the Commodore of Na Hoa Holomoku for 2007 and 2008 and has steered the club through stormy weather as well as smooth seas with a steady voice of reason. Ron has also been a large driving force to bring Dancer to us, being part of the crew that sailed her over from Maui and has recently been leading extra work afternoons to speed her through the work towards getting her back in the water and under sail. Ron's leading of the club and the efforts on Dancer have been inspirational and I'm sure you'll all join me in thanking Ron for his on-going contributions to our club.

Finally, I've been told I should use some column inches here for something that doesn't really come naturally to me, that is to say a couple of words about myself. Those of you whom I've had the pleasure of speaking to in person will no doubt have recognized my English accent -and those of you who guessed at Australian can consider yourselves forgiven! I grew up in the UK and as a

child learned to sail the Mirror dinghy that my parents had built when I was very small. For those of you not familiar with it, the Mirror is a greatly practical design - at just under 11' with a pram bow and a Gunter rig with a gaff that effectively doubles the height of the mast so that the spars fit inside the hull for easy storage and transportation. As a teenager I'd sail it single handed by clamping the jib sheet under my foot against the cockpit floor for want of a couple of cam cleats. A few years later in life I found myself studying for a PhD in astrophysics, and visited the big island to make use of the telescopes on Mauna Kea as part of my research into active galactic nuclei. I really enjoyed my visits to the big island and Mauna Kea and when I was finishing up my PhD and a job came up at one of the telescopes, I knew that the job had my name on it. So, I moved to Hilo from England about 9 years ago to take up a job as an astronomer at UKIRT, where I ended up working with a guy called Nick Rees, who many of you will know and who told me there was this sailing club in Hilo... A couple of years later, I found myself running the club website and sailing the Hobie Getaway a lot. Later on I became a board member and also look after the safety boat. Sometime around that I moved on to both a larger telescope (I now work for Gemini Observatory), and to larger boats - most often I find myself sailing Cheers and am very much looking forward to seeing how fast Ho'okipa will really go!

So, having written more than I set out to, I shall sign off this column, and very much look forward to seeing you on the beach and out on the water under sail!

Aloha,

Paul Hirst, 2009 Commodore.



Racing News



Above: Samantha Davies on Roxy

The Vendee Globe by Ron Reilly

This race has to be one of the most extreme sporting events in the world. It is being broadcast to the world on the internet via the most spectacular technology imaginable; daily photos, audio and video from each boat, and GPS mapping of each boat on a google-earth type background.

The course: Non-stop around the world France to France, from-to the Vendee Coast. Sail south to the bottom of the Atlantic, turn left at the Cape of Good Hope, sail eastward around Antarctica in the Southern Ocean way below India,

Australia, New Zealand, until gaining Cape Horn and then turn left turn into the Atlantic and sail north back to France.

The crew: one person.

The boats: 60 foot mono hulls with canting keels and twin rudders.

The fleet: 30 boats, 30 sailors (28 men and 2 women).

Below: Vendee Map

The progress: January 15 (day 67). Of the 30 starters 11 are still racing. 19 have abandoned due to boat damage (mast collapse), a broken leg (femur), capsize (due to keel falling off), or rudder damage (due to hitting ice and whales). Each skipper has an amazing story of heroism and survival under extreme conditions.

The 2 women skippers are:

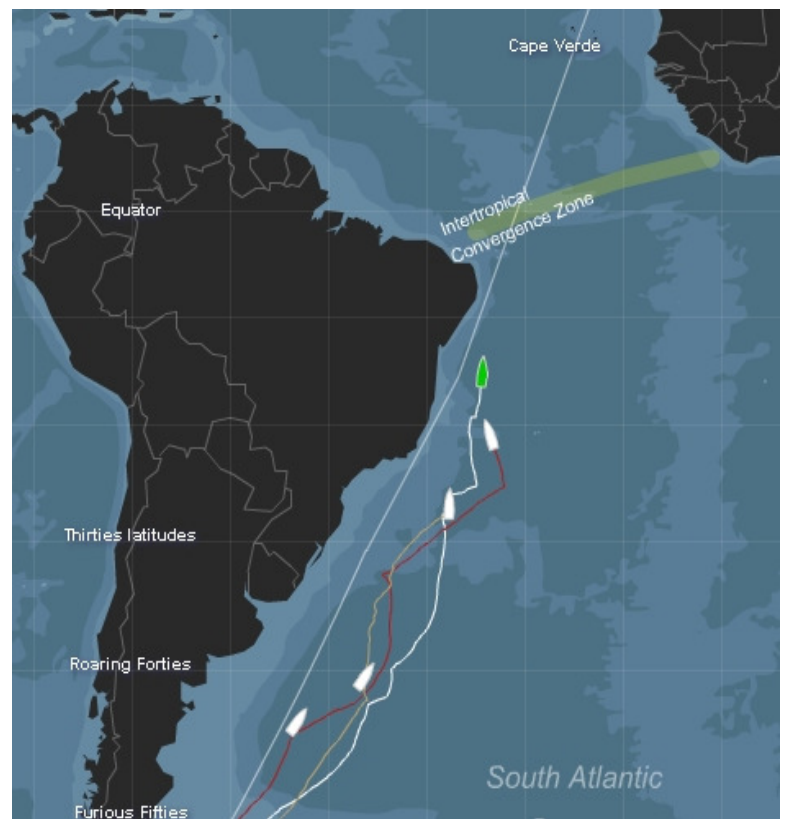
Samantha Davies aboard “Roxy” currently in 4th place, heading northwards in the Atlantic and about to leave the roaring 40’s behind her.

Dee Caffari aboard “Aviva” currently in 8th place and about to round Cape Horn and trying to avoid a low pressure system which has winds of 70-80 knots and huge seas (think 6 story high rise). And this with a delaminating mainsail streaming torn taffeta ribbons, with many open “windows” and holding together by it’s kevlar threads.

More to explore:

<http://www.vendeeglobe.org/en/>

http://www.samdavies.com/gb/les_news.asp



Match Racing Clinic by Ron Reilly

The world's most famous match race (two boats competing one-on-one) is of course the America's Cup. Last weekend the Kaneohe Yacht Club hosted a clinic given by US National Women's champion Liz Baylis. Most of us will never get to crew for the America's Cup yet here was a chance to pretend to the max on Cal 20's. There were 18 sailors signed up including four women from Kona. We had six Cal 20's sailing with three people per boat and everyone got a chance to drive the boat.

I had a great, fun, three-day weekend and learned a lot with the hope of bringing back enough knowledge to start some beginning match races here on Hilo Bay. Look for a possible mini clinic next Sailing Sunday.

Why match race? It is engaging, exciting, intense and great fun. The races are quite short, typically less than 15 minutes. Match racing will definitely improve your boat handling skills and your fleet racing. All that's needed is two similar boats, two people who want to go for it, and a few buoys to race around; Sunfish are perfect, Hobie One's also, and later our two Folkboats will be fabulous.

Liz Baylis is on a world-wide mission promoting women's match racing and is the director of the Women's International Match Racing Association. (WIMRA). Why then was the Kaneohe clinic open to us men as well as women? Well...WIMRA understands that to have more WOMEN's match racing there just needs to be MORE match racing (of all persuasions).

More to explore:

<http://www.wimra.org/>

<http://www.lizbaylis.com/>

"Born to Win" by John Bertrand



Boat for Sale

1977 Ranger 20 'Petrel'

Petrel comes with 2 main sails, 1 genoa, 1 jib, a 5 hp long shaft outboard (new), Anchor, new electrical wiring, new rigging both running and standing, new bottom Paint and more.

\$7000 OBO. Contact Mauricio Barbis 808 937 1771

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