

**JAMES HIGDON**

skipperi36@yahoo.com

October 21, 2009

Dear Officers, Skippers & Crews of the Islander 36 Association San Francisco Bay Fleet:

Welcome to the 2009 Fall Meeting. I am sorry I am unable to attend, and I hope that this letter finds you all well.

One of my father's greatest pleasures over the last twenty or so years of his life was your friendship and support. He and I spent countless hours sailing the bay along side true friends.

*We watched the fires together  
Shared our quarters for awhile  
Walked the dusty roads together  
Came so many miles...*

As all of you know, William Eugene Higdon, a man full of spirit and the love of life died on August 14, 2009. It was his last wish that his ashes be mixed with his loving wife's (Marge) and scattered in the San Francisco Bay. I can think of no greater tribute to him than to have his dear friends present when he begins his final earthly journey.

It is my wish - and Ron, Denis and Gary have agreed to work with me to make this happen - that those who have loved my father will climb aboard Islanders and escort Blockbuster to a designated spot off of Angel Island during the occasion of the Spring Meeting for the Islander 36 Association. There the ashes of my father and stepmother will laid into the waters of the bay to waltz in the current, dancing from this Earth, until each of us rises to join them.

As the Spring Meeting isn't until March, several details will have to be worked out. The idea will be to take a little time in the afternoon for the excursion. Returning to the yacht club, Bill Higdon Special Martinis will be on me. As Dad would have it, the situation will not be a somber one, but a celebration of life and what it is to live it. It is also a celebration of the Islander 36 Association and its boats and members. Dad loved you all, and I am proud to include you all among my friends.

Cheers

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Higdon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Higdon  
Blockbuster