



"Lean Times" drives upwind

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SPRING MEETING

March 19, 2005
San Francisco Yacht Club
see page 3 for details!

I/36 Fall Meeting ... an Evening to Remember

Fall Meeting Nov 19th 2004. Excerpted from Rick Van Mall's web page writeup

A spectacular day on San Francisco Bay, a baker's dozen Islanders tied up at the STFYC docks, 100 happy skippers and crew and you had the best Fall Meeting ever. With crystal blue skies and picture-perfect views of the Bay, Mother Nature reminded us all of her mastery when she replaced the gentle 10-knots with a 30 knot blast from the northeast at 1545 to slam the last of the arriving boats.

Thirty-two boats were represented at the Saturday evening Winners Dinner & Dance!

It all began nicely on Friday afternoon as eight boats arrived at the St. Francis docks during the day. A warm westerly wind made for some nice sailing, with sunshine and temps in the 60s. Eight boats arrived on Friday and all hands gathered in the cockpit and cabin aboard *Noncents* for the usual hearty nibbles and Jack Thompson's big pot of chili.

More of the fleet started arriving early on Saturday.

Vanishing Animal took Kelley Lefmann and her father Neil out for a sail past the Golden Gate and Pt. Bonita, and was back in the Bay when the wind picked up to 30 knots, but managed to furl sail and get safely back to the dock. Barry & Sylvia Stompe had rigged their spinnaker sheets and guys to double hand over from Sausalito with the chute up in the gentle winds, but unfortunately, they were hit with the first blasts before hoisting, so they just sailed *Tom Cat* with the main.

Carol Williams and Laurie Stover decorated the meeting room with balloons tied with ribbon and I-36 logoed plastic wine glasses filled with stars and chocolates marking each of the 100 places set.

The room filled with skippers, crew and guests, all talking about what a great season we were celebrating. There were 45 Door Prizes so Harry asked Sandy Van Mell to start the program off with the drawing. Thanks very much to these members for their generous door prize donations: *Ron & Karen Damsen*: two gourmet baked goodie baskets from Woodbine Bakery, *Judy Bush*:



Daphne Dickson with new baby, Eleanor & Loring Piper

handmade quilt, *Pat Salvo*: hand knitted shawl, *Robert Aston*: Golden Gate photo from RJA Photo, *Skipper Wall*: two handmade corkboards, *Barb Cucksey*: Waterford vase & eight Waterford flutes, *Carol Hunter*: sailboat brooch, *Betsy Fowler*: nautical goodies basket, *Kelley Lefmann*: case of Seabiscuit wine, *Debbie Lopker*: Frazier Winery tour, *Kathryn Munn*: inflatable ice bucket & set of V berth sheets.



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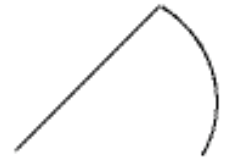
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Commodore's Corner

Mike Dickson



Thinking back about the past six years since I started sailing with the Islander association, I can't help but think about how much growth has occurred within our organization.

Our cruising events have drawn so many boats that we can fill a harbor. Over the Memorial Day weekend last year we turned the Turning Basin in Petaluma into a showroom for the Islander fleet. At our fall meeting at the St. Francis Yacht Club one of the biggest challenges was finding space to berth all the Islanders.

Smokey and Laurie Stover, our new Cruise chairs, have put together what promises to be a memorable year for cruising. The Pacific Ocean will be our playground this summer with two events taking the fleet out to sea; these are great events for learning coastal sailing with the safety of the fleet and the experience of our seasoned skippers. This past year I was excited to see some of the Association members that live outside the San Francisco area, stop by for some of our events. If you're looking for a great vacation for your family and crew, we will do all we can to make sure you experience Islander 36 sailing like you have never had it before.

The growth in our racing fleet has been amazing. Over the last few years the Islander fleet has been the fastest growing one design fleet on the San Francisco Bay! Our hope is not only to keep this growth up but to continue to offer the fleet the types of races that they enjoy. Managing this is no easy task. As the fleet captain for three years, I can tell you that for every challenge and opportunity that arises there are as many view points as racers.

This year Joseph Krensavage, our fleet captain, has assembled a racing season that is as varied as we have ever had. Distance races, fixed mark races, buoy races and large multi day regattas on venues across the bay and beyond are on the calendar. We've already had three new boats measured for the upcoming season and I'd like to encourage everyone to give Islander 36 racing a try, either on your boat for an event or the season or by crewing for a day with one of our seasoned regulars.

Along with the growth of the association I have experienced personal growth in my sailing and can attribute most of that to my participation with the Islander 36's. When I started sailing with the Islanders my cruising experience was nil, and my only racing experience was doing beer cans with a friend on a Santa Cruz 27'. Since then I have learned more about racing on the bay than I thought possible. I guess the more you know, the more you realize how little you know. I started cruising with the Islander 36's with my friend Daphne on Nimbus, who saw us through harrowing breaking seas near the Farallones to idyllic summer days in the California Delta. Over the years Daphne and I, with the help of Nimbus, grew closer and closer. We are now married and welcomed our first 'crew member' Eleanor this fall. I can't wait for the experiences that our family will have, with Nimbus, ready for any port of call.

Stay on Starboard –

Mike Dickson



Changing of the Guard! Departing Commodore Harry Farrell passes baton to new Commodore, Mike Dickson.

Commercial donors are listed on pg. 11.

After a hearty welcome by Commodore Harry Farrell, Art Fowler stepped to the podium with a tribute to Harry as "Mr. Islander" for the superb job he's done as Commodore in 2004 and as Treasurer for the prior nine years.

Then came Skipper Wall's Membership report - 205 members with two pending. Harry presented Skipper with the Schneider Trophy for exceptional service to the Fleet in 12 years as Membership Chairman. Treasurer Ron Damsen reported that we are solvent and Rick Van Mell noted that the web site will exceed 4000 photos by spring.



Party animals!

Barb Henderson gave her last report as Newsletter Editor, thanking the Officers and everyone else for providing stories, photos and reports. Commodore Farrell read a tribute to Barb thanking her for five years of creative and faithful service.

Diners chose either Filet Mignon or Salmon. The Frasier Winery Merlot, arranged for by Midnight Sun crew Debbie

Lopker, was a perfect complement. Dessert was chocolate cake with a strawberry garnish, the frosting on the cake!

Dennis Bush gave out the Cruising awards, including the Charles Winton Cruising award to Bill Hidgon & his *Blockbuster* crew. Smokey Stover, as the incoming 2005 Cruise chair provided a cruise survey form and encouraged all to make their wishes known.

Joseph Krensavage gave a summary of the season's racing highlights, starting with the Race Clinic, to the 20 boats on the starting line for the Vallejo Race, wrapping up with another Islander Nationals Regatta. Winning both the Season Championship's Buster Hammond Trophy and the Charles Winton Nationals Trophy was Peter Szasz and his crew on *Midnight Sun*. Lou & Steve Zevanov, in third place with *Diana*, noted that spirit was better than ever and Lou should know as a founding member of the Association in 1974! Barry & Sylvia Stompe's *Tom Cat* were second, just one point out of first.

Peter Szasz presented to the Association a Perpetual Crew Trophy. At his suggestion the 2004 winner was Martha Robinson, who along with their two children has crewed for Jim Robinson on *Pilot* since they bought her 15 years ago. At the Nationals this year, Martha was Jim's ONLY crew on the boat and they still finished third!



Truckee members Fred & Karen Loeser dance the night away.

The 2005 Officers were elected.

Guest Speaker, Matt Wachowicz, America's Cup navigator on *Oracle*, also involved in the Rolex Maxi World Championships and the Volvo Ocean Race told a fascinating story of a day in the life of a Cup sailor. It was a special treat, with many thanks to Matt.

Dancing finished up the evening with music by the Pan Extasy Duo.

Sunday morning the wind had dropped to 12 knots or so as boats prepared to leave. But Mother Nature reminded us of her strength once again building to the 20 - 30 knot range around noon.

It was, from beginning to end, a very special Fall Meeting.

Islander 36 Spring Meeting

March 19, 2005, San Francisco Yacht Club in the Cove Room

1130 Attitude Adjustment

1200 Lunch

1315 - 1530 Meeting and Guest Speaker

We will talk about the Racing and Cruising schedule as well as the Race Clinic on April 23rd at the Encinal Yacht Club.

Joseph Krensavage, race chair has lots of ODCA daily race trophies from the 2004 season to be distributed

If you can, sail over Friday evening for a casual hors d'oeuvre / dinner aboard. More details will be posted to the web as they become available. Please go to the website to make your reservation for lunch and dockspace.

<http://www.islander36.org/events.html>
For additional details or questions, contact event Coordinators Smokey & Laurie Stover, 510-791-2620
sailsolace@netzero.com

Racing Notes

from Mustang's Deck



Joseph Krensavage

Congratulations to Fred Hodgson, Mike Melin and the crew of *Silver Cloud* for their fabulous performance as the top Islander 36 in the CYC Midwinters Regatta. Thanks also to Frank and Susie Mayo of *Amante*, and Kit Wiegman of *Cassiopeia* for racing with us!

Following is a summary of this weekend's racing...

Saturday, January 15th:

Four Islander 36s, *Silver Cloud*, *Amante*, *Cassiopeia* and *Mustang* raced under partly sunny skies, cool air temperature, wind from the North at 15-20 knots and a developing flood current. *Silver Cloud*, *Amante* and *Mustang* were in Class G with 5 other boats racing non-spinnaker. *Cassiopeia* raced spinnaker in Class H. The race committee gave us (class G) course #16; start, Little Harding, Fort Mason, Elephant Rock in Belvedere Cove, Finish, making for a race across the Bay and back. The start line ran east West in Belvedere Cove, which created a downwind start. *Silver Cloud* and *Mustang* ran the line on a beam reach and crossed the pin end of the line on a broad reach headed for Little Harding. After passing

through the lee of the Belvedere Peninsula, the breeze freshened and our SOG increased to 7-8 knots. *Silver Cloud* was the first Islander to round Little Harding. The next leg was a judgement call on how much affect the flood current would have as we crossed the slot. *Silver Cloud* conservatively sailed higher on the first half of this leg and then giped about halfway across the slot, sailing a broad reach for the Fort Mason buoy. That turned out to be a very good decision. About halfway across the slot, Since *Silver Cloud* was about 10 boat lengths ahead, *Mustang* tried to sail lower to converge at Fort Mason, but that didn't pan out and *Silver Cloud* rounded Fort Mason about one minute ahead. The next leg was a long, starboard tack beat toward Sausalito, taking advantage of the flood current set toward Belvedere Cove. Apparent wind varied between 15-20 knots on this leg, Mustang's SOG averaged about 6 knots. We tried to catch *Silver Cloud*, tweaking everything, but we just couldn't catch her, and when she tacked toward Belvedere Cove, we tacked also and sailed close hauled almost all the way to Point Knox where we tacked over to starboard,

heading directly at the tip of the Belvedere Peninsula. At the mouth of Raccoon Strait, we tacked to port and sailed close hauled, up the strait with the flood, and heading up in some pretty strong puffs that lifted us toward the Elephant Rock mark. By the time we rounded Elephant Rock, *Silver Cloud* finished ahead by 6 minutes 22 seconds. It was a good race and it felt great to be



Joseph and his "Mustang" crew celebrate!

out on the Bay racing again after a three-month hiatus.

Sunday, January 16th:

What a magnificently beautiful day! Blue skies, bright sunshine, warmer air temps and a good breeze in the teens from the North were the venue for this race. We were given course #4: Start, Blackhaller, Blossom Rock, Elephant Rock, Finish, making for a race in a giant loop around the central bay. This was another downwind start with a receding ebb current on the line and *Silver Cloud* and *Mustang* were OCS with less than one minute to our starting

Islander 36 placings on Saturday, January 15th

First Place: *Silver Cloud*, Fred/Mike Hodgson/Melin elapsed time 01:26:54

Third Place: *Mustang*, Joseph Krensavage, 01:33:41

Sixth Place: *Amante*, Frank Mayo, 01:39:26

Islander 36 placings on Sunday, January 16th

Second place: *Silver Cloud*, Fred/Mike Hodgson/Melin elapsed time, 02:31:21

Fourth Place: *Mustang*, Joseph Krensavage, 02:39:15

Eighth Place: *Amante*, Frank Mayo, 02:34:07

gun, and with the India rule in effect, we had to round the pin end to re-start late, giving *Amante* an advantage. After the start, *Silver Cloud* and *Mustang* sailed toward the South Tower, anticipating an early flood at Blackhaller. *Amante* sailed a little lower. We converged at Blackhaller; *Silver Cloud* ahead by about 1 minute, *Mustang* and *Amante* rounding in that order. *Silver Cloud* and *Amante* sailed along the City Front, about one half mile offshore, while *Mustang* hugged the Cityfront hoping to ride a developing flood to Blossom Rock. *Silver Cloud*, *Mustang* and *Amante* rounded Blossom Rock in that order, *Silver Cloud* didn't immediately tack after rounding, and although we thought the flood would set them too far East, they tacked on a lay line that took them along the Southwest shore of Angel Island, where we expected the wind to subside in the lee of the island

since the wind was coming from the North. But there was an inexplicable fresh breeze on that side of the island, and the effect of the flood wasn't as strong as we expected, so *Silver Cloud's* lead widened on us greatly to a finish 7 minutes 24 seconds ahead.

Racers should make sure they've got the Spring Meeting, March 19, 2005, and the Race Rules Seminar at Encinal YC on April 23rd marked in red on their 2005 calendars.

The first race of the season is the Vallejo Race, going up on April 30th, and returning on Sunday, May 1st.

Also, now is the time to note the schedule for 2005 (following page) and mark your calendars with another year of great racing!

The ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing 2005-2008 went into effect January 1st. They can be downloaded for free in .pdf format at www.ussailing.com

Dave Perry wrote a great book called "Understanding the Racing Rules." It can be purchased on the same website or at West Marine.

All racers are encouraged to refresh their understanding of the rules, especially since our racing fleet has grown significantly.

DID YOU MEASURE UP?

If you weren't measured in 2003 or 2004, call our Measurer Kris Youngberg, (415-928-0815) to schedule your boat measurement so you can get a Measurement Certificate. You can email Kris at kberg@best.com.

Check out the requirements and process at our website: <http://www.islander36.org/comply.html>

Preparing for this Season

Preventative maintenance can avoid some problems of your operating system during a day sail or cruise.

- Check engine and transmission fluids; change them if required, usually no more than once per year or every 100 engine hours. Don't forget to check/clean the raw water strainer.

- Engine fuel filters can get pretty dirty and the flow restricted. Replace those filters and get re-acquainted with how to bleed your system at the same time. Keep replacement filters on board, as replacement time is often when under way.

- Find each of your thru hull valves, test them and tie a plug to each one. Test your electric and manual bilge pumps while you are down there.

- Check the engine drive belts for wear. They provide operation of your alternator for charging, and for the fresh and raw water cooling pumps. When was your pump impeller changed last? Always keep replacement belts and an impeller on board.

- Look into the lazarette to check the steering cables for wear and make sure the emergency tiller is not buried too deep.

- Take a good look at your standing and running rigging for wear, loose fittings or worse.

- Check the fluid level and test each cell with a hydrometer. Your engine and house batteries should be isolated so the engine will always have power to start.

We have cruises that will involve two or more days away from shore power. Test your alternator with a voltmeter to be sure it is charging while the engine is running. If you use the microwave, refrigeration, TV or other amp eaters then you might need a power generator.

Smokey Stover

2005 Islander 36 Racing Calendar

(As recommended to the YRA in October 2004)

This format is designed to provide a competitive 10-race Season's Championship series with a mix of distance and course racing and includes 3 after-race social events, plus a Spring Race Clinic (held at the Encinal Cruise rendezvous) and three additional Regatta opportunities, with 2 more social evenings, and finally, 7 additional races where a group of five or more Islander might sign up and get their own start.

Said another way, you can commit to only 10 races on 9 days and win the Season's Championship, including 3 social gatherings. You can also pick from 3 additional regatta events and



Vallejo race May 2004

the Race clinic – all of which have social events. For the die-hard racer (who is determined to get better with practice), you can race all 30 races on the schedule.

Racers! Mark your calendars for the "Svendson's Islander Discount Night" April 23rd.
see website for more details

Date	Season Championship	Stand-alone Fleet Events	Individual or group participation
	10 Races	13 Races Best 8 of 10 Races (2 throwouts)	7 Races Attendance encouraged
Jan 15-16			CYC Mid Winters – 2 races
Feb 19-20			CYC Mid Winters – 2 races
Mar 19		Spring Meeting/Measurement possible. email Kris Youngberg kyoungberg@coaptsystems.com	
Apr 23 2-4 pm		Race Rules Seminar at Encinal YC with US Judge Tom Roberts	
Apr 30	Vallejo – race up (party)		
May 1	Vallejo – race back		
May 14	Knox		
May 21	Stone Cup – St. FYC 2 races (party)		
May 22		Stone Cup – St. FYC 1 or 2 races	
June 4	Circle		
June 18	Knox		
June 25			Treasure Island
Aug 6			Encinal Race (Pt. Bonita)
Aug 7			Encinal Race (TI Course)
Aug 20	South Bay (Pier 40 party)		
Aug 27	Knox/Bonita (HDA)		
Sept 2,3 & 4		St. FYC Labor Day Regatta – 3 to 5 races	
Sept 10	ODCA Treasure Island		
Oct 8- 9		I-36 Nationals – 3 races	

Cruising Notes

from Smokie and Laurie Stover



Laurie and I have been selected as the Cruising Chair persons for this 2005 sailing season. We distributed a questionnaire at the Fall meeting and used it as a guide to form ideas for an agenda. We have since planned out the year, which involves two meetings, seven cruises, and a couple side events that we are sure everyone will enjoy. It is a year for procrastinators to join in on some cruising, and these dates have been planned away from YRA events so you 'racers' can put some water in a holding tank and join in as well.

There is an abundance of knowledge within our membership that we would like to tap into and incorporate into the cruises. Short presentations of subjects we can directly relate to, like boat handling from confined spaces to coastal ventures, anchoring, maintenance, safety, HF radio, and fishing. Call us about sharing your knowledge with others at one of our cruises.

The focus is to provide memorable fun, adventure and some educational experiences into some new destinations. Call us about co-chairing one of these events. The measure of success will be in the number of members that take advantage.

Here is the schedule of the cruises and the basic plan. Details of the events and registration will precede the cruise by 3-4 weeks, so keep a close eye out on the I-36 web site www.islander36.org.

It is a year for procrastinators to join in on some cruising!

March 19, 20 - Spring Meeting San Francisco Yacht Club in Belvedere.

This is our opening event with the presentation of our new officers, new members and the path of the I36 Association for the 2005 year. Berthing and lunch are available, and a speaker will be presented regarding preparing your boat for a safe season. Kelly Montana and Chris Mellor are going to start off as co-chair persons.

A walk into nearby Tiburon may be a dinner plan, and moving over to the docks at Angel Island for the morning before the trip home is not out of the question.

April 23,24 - Encinal YC.

This is a downwind sail on "Opening Day" along the Estuary to tie up to the relatively new docks at this very accommodating club, and is co-chaired by Charles and Katherine Hodgkins. There will be a racing rules seminar organized by Joseph Krensavage, open for all members. There will be a speaker presenting some techniques for an enjoyable family coastal sailing adventure. Don't forget about the discount savings you can get when 'Svendsens'

opens its doors to us after hours that evening. The EYC is having a buffet dinner with an Italian theme that night!

May 14,15 - Bay-to-Breakers

Not a scheduled cruise, however the San Francisco Bay-to-Breakers is a must-do or must-see at the very least. Pat and Gary Salvo sponsor an overnigher at South Beach Harbor and somehow get involved with the antics of the "race" that you won't forget. This one is rated "R" because parents probably can't explain most of it for a PG.

May 28,29,30 - Half Moon Bay

This Memorial Day weekend is a wonderful opportunity to sail off the wind and look out for the marine life (dolphin? fish? whale? turtle?) along our coast. The outer bay is well protected, the buoys are plentiful, and there always seems to be dock space available inside the harbor as well. There are plenty of dinks available to get to shore for the body and soul activities sponsored by the HMBYC. The shops and eateries are many, which include 'Barbara's Fish Trap' of course. The trip back home is a steady one with the use of your 'iron genoa'.

June 11, 12 - Clipper Cove

This is a calm and well-protected place to hang your fenders, anchor out in a raft-up, and stop worrying about your LPU hull. This would be

Cruising Notes *continued.*

a fine time to inflate that dingy and get involved with one of those race/rally events you might have heard about in the past. Linda and Roger McClellan have some ideas for these events as co-chairs. Potluck dinner is the way to go here between floating galleys. This would be a good opportunity for the Damsen's to speak about the benefits of high wattage radio and maybe talk to someone in Timbuktu later on their HF radio.

July 2, 3, 4 - Sequoia YC

The big fireworks display is scheduled here on the 4th (a Monday) so think about taking off work on Tuesday perhaps. We are told that the pirates and their pirate ship will be there on the 2nd and 3rd for us. This is a South Bay event to look at the under side of the San Mateo Bridge, so lube two ends of the



ARRG! Pirate hostess with Claire Mellor, Matt Bush and friend on the Sequoia cruise.

whisker pole. It is co-chaired by Rick and Sandy Van Mell who never fail in getting the red carpet rolled out. We will have someone to speak about catching fish from a sailboat, and perhaps the cleaning and cooking of a success story. There is an additional discussion about liv-



The gang cocktail aboard Endeavor in Half Moon Bay

ing a few days of life aboard a sailboat with no shore power.

August 6, 7 - Benicia YC

This weekend starts with the lucky ones that are off work on Friday. A side trip up the Napa river will bring you to the docks of Tim and Rhonda Shea who have offered to host the evening in their beautiful home in the cays of Napa. Benicia harbor is the setting for the weekend cruise and the launching area to the many places of interest in the nearby downtown area. A speaker is planned to discuss sailing on the San Joaquin River and anchoring in the Delta. Don and Barbara Henderson are our likely choice for the co-chair spot. It takes no effort at all to sail downwind from here and breaking out the water toys in 70 degree water. I am taking *Evanescence* for sure. It will be tough to pull up the stern anchor

off of Hog Island and go back home a couple days later.

September 3, 4, 5 - Drakes Bay

This is Labor Day weekend and time to scoot up the coast to Drakes Bay/Pt Reyes. If you didn't see marine life in May, then keep a look out this time. We have Skipper and Nancy Wall co-chairing this anchor-out at this well known and protected area. The 24th Annual Sand Sculpture Contest is scheduled for that Sunday, September 4th at Drakes Beach. Perhaps a tall sand structure with an I-36 flag on it might just win. Someone just has to catch a salmon on the way for the BBQ, as there is no Denny's here! Skipper and Nancy invite anyone interested to move up the coast from there to Bodega Bay. Anyone have an old Alfred Hitchcock movie that might be appropriate?

October 22, 23 - Ballena Bay YC

This is home ground for co-chairs John and Nancy Melton. There is no doubt that the theme just has to be Halloween. There is the attraction of the retired aircraft carrier USS Hornet pretty close by, as well as a winery on the shores of the Estuary to keep our time occupied.

November 5, 6 - Fall meeting

The Saint Francis YC in San Francisco was such a spectacular location last year, co-chair Mike and Daphne Dickson bring us back there again. There is discussion of putting an event together at the nearby GGYC the night before. This will be the year end wrap up and awards presentations.

We want to involve kids/grandkids as much as we can,

which would justify acting childish ourselves sometimes and even squeeze in a bingo game here or there. We will feel out the marina in advance about the presence of our dogs, but as long as they are on-leash to comply with the civil/criminal code, there should be no problem. Animals are rarely allowed inside of a club - except perhaps a parrot on a shoulder?



Nelly "at ease"

It looks like we might have the cruise co-host positions taken care of, but your involvement is always encouraged and appreciated anytime. Maybe YOU will be the Cruising Chair position next year and this will be a great experience.

That about synthesizes the year ahead, so use this knowledge to set aside these times from the rat race, and get involved with the cruising activities this year.

Cruise Chairs 2005,

Smokey and Laurie Stover

2005 Islander 36 Cruising Calendar

Sat, March 19

Spring Meeting - San Francisco Yacht Club, a popular location for walk to Tiburon.

Smokey & Laurie Stover

Sat/Sun, April 23-24

Encinal Yacht Club
Cruise & Race Clinic for everyone!
Special - Svendsen's Islander Discount Night!

Charles or Kathryn Hodgkins or Smokey & Laurie Stover

Sat-Mon, May 28-30

Half Moon Bay - Many new mooring buoys with dinghy access to the HMBYC and inner harbor.

Sat-Sun, June 11-12

Clipper Cove (Treasure Island) - Calm anchorage for raft-up. Dinghy relay

Sat-Mon, July 2-4

Sequoia Yacht Club - Redwood City; Pirates and fireworks in the South Bay!

Rick & Sandy Van Mell

Sat/Sun August 6-7

Benicia YC - Downwind sailing, lots to see downtown. Stage for a few following days in the Delta? Kids will like their water toys here.

Sat-Mon September 3-5

Drakes Bay - Anchor out/raft up. Catch a fish for the BBQ and hike from the shore. There's even an option to head north to Bodega Bay at the end of the weekend.

Skipper & Nancy Wall

Sat-Sun, October 22-23

Ballena Bay
John & Nancy Melton

Sat, November 5

Fall Meeting - St. Francis Yacht Club. Come a day early for a Friday evening pot-luck around the bar at Golden Gate YC!

They Took the Big Left Turn!

4 Islander 36's entered for the 2004 - Baja Ha-Ha XI, a cruisers rally to Cabo San Lucas

Mai Pen Rai Noble & Barbara Brown of Benicia, CA* I-36 association member

Some Day Thomas Michael Gray of Berkeley, CA

Misfit JC Sprinkle of Stockton, CA

36 Double D's Dale Snearly & Dena Rutan of Livermore, CA



2004 Baja Ha Ha Adventure

I have sailed the Baja Ha Ha on two occasions with a friend and fell in love with Mexico, the people and warm weather sailing. So early in 2003 I decided to do the 2004 Baja Ha Ha on my Islander 36 "Mai Pen Rai". Now this is real easy to say but another matter to do it without breaking the bank. There are sails to repair, motors to get ready, solar panels, extra water and fuel, provisions to plan, permits to get and insurance to buy and crew members to sign on and that's just the first month. However the best part of it all is it is worth every minute you spend planning the adventure.

On September 27th after lunch at Sam's in Tiburon, we set out into 35-knot winds and washing machine seas at the gate. Two hours later, the seas went flat and stayed that way for the next 450 miles to San Diego, a real test for a 28HP Volvo diesel.

The start of the Baja Ha Ha was a typical San Diego fall morning, not a lot of wind but a nice day. As the day passed the wind began to build to 10-15 knots making for a pleasant downhill sail. A small sparrow claimed the port rail next to the helm. I guess he needed a rest. That evening we were entertained by whales playing off the port side with the lights of Ensenada behind them. As they quietly glided through the water the full moon glistened off their backs making them appear as if they were made of silver. The peaceful sailing was interrupted

on the morning of the third day with 35-40 knot winds right on the bow as we were approaching Isla Cedros 75-80 miles away. During this upwind slog we sailed through a very large pod of Pilot whales. We looked at Isla Cedros all day and half the night before we passed it and pulled into Bahia Tortugas, anchoring at 2:00 am.

We made good use of our three days in Bahia Tortugas, enjoying rolls from the local bakery in the morning, lunch and cocktails on the veranda at the Hotel Vera Cruz and Bar-B-Q on the boat in the evening. A Baja Ha Ha potluck and beach party highlighted our stay in Bahia Tortugas.

The next leg was 240 miles of the best down hill run to Bahia Santa Maria, some of the best sailing we had during the trip. It was this leg that we learned how not to jibe a cruising chute, after a short but steep learning curve we were successful.

Bahia Santa Maria is a quiet bay that has nothing but a seasonal fishing camp and whale watching boats, a beautiful anchorage just made for relaxing. It has a 10-15 mile beach that is littered with pancake sized sand dollars and other types of shells. On our second day there a band from La Paz came out and provided good music for our entertainment and dancing pleasure. The locals from San Carlos set up a kitchen and threw us a lobster and fish Bar-B-Q that lasted well into the night.

The next day we started the last 180 miles of the trip to Cabo San Lucas, the only part of the trip that we spent much time with land in sight. Most of the trip was off shore as much as 70 miles. Several pods of dolphins shadowed the boat, then swam off only to be replaced by another group. This is an overnight trip and as the sun goes down you begin to see the lights of La Paz and later the lights of Cabo San Lucas. At 6:00 am just as the sun was rising, we pulled into Cabo. We were ready to see our families and looking forward to a real hot bath. Our last real bath was in Bahia Tortugas where we rented a room for the shower, some 10-15 people chipped in to pay for the room and get their chance in the shower. As we gained entrance to the harbor, what seemed like a million tuna fishing boats raced out of the 50 yard wide harbor entrance, all wanting to get to the good spots first.

We ended the Baja Ha Ha in Cabo San Lucas with a party at "The Office", a local bar on the beach, and an awards ceremony in the harbor parking lot. It was a great trip full of fun and excitement and it was capped off by "Mai Pen Rai" taking 1st place in her division.

Noble Brown

"Mai Pen Rai", Islander 36

Yeaaaay, Door Prize Donors!

by Sandy Van Mell 650-962-1515
vanmells@ix.netcom.com

If you were there on November 20th, you remember how much fun it was calling out door prize numbers at the Fall Meeting to the delight of winners. Our commercial members support us all year with their services...we often refer to them as our favorite "Toy Stores". This year, in addition to the wonderful assortment of such things as duffel bags, clothing, and assorted gear we requested from our vendors, we invited our members to contribute their hand made craft items, artwork or commercial articles or services (see page 1). To all who came through with donated door prizes our heartiest thanks go out to each of you.

When you patronize the wonderful donors listed here this year, say "Hi!" and "Thank You" from the Islander 36 Association. Our wonderful 2004 Door Prizes are listed on our web site at:

<http://www.islander36.org/fm04/DoorPrize04.html>

Please give Sandy Van Mell a call or E-Mail if you have a new donor to add to the list...collect the manager's business card

A brief summary of the Fall 2004 Donors and gifts were:		
North Sails	Chris Shining	Back packs & caps
Pineapple Sails	Sally Richards	Shirt, gloves & hat
Svendsen's Boat Works	Alex Jordan	Briefcase, back pack, gloves & head warmer
Embroidery Factory	Shirley Housley	Custom I-36 T-Shirts
Hood Sails	Robin Sodaro	Duffel Bags & purse
KKMI	Paul Kaplan	Free Haul Wine Bottle!
West Marine - SFO	Dan Niessen	Jacket, shaving kit, screw set, stay-set lines, shirt & hat
West Marine - South SFO	Will Erm	Fleece vest
West Marine - Oakland	Dave Mackey	Foul Weather Jacket
West Marine - Palo Alto	Ken Gold	Jacket
West Marine - Sausalito	Larry Martinez	Totes, computer bag, & document case
West Marine - San Jose	Steve Bevan	Totes, flashlights, & hat
Harken	Kermit Schekle	Document cases
Frazier Winery	Kim Frazier	Private winery tour and tasting for eight people & Frazier Merlot for every table
Good Old Boat Magazine	Mark Busta	Subscriptions to GOB
New Artist Designs	Carla Reinhart	I36 logo t-shirts

the next time you visit so you can give Sandy the manager's name and phone number. We will make sure that they get a Thank You letter from our organization and an I36 burgee, if they want one to display.

If you'd like to contribute something next year, please email Sandy Van Mell at vanmells@ix.netcom.com. You'll get credit during the festivities at St. Francis, and in our first Newsletter of 2006!

Support our newest member vendors and supporting vendors!

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Winter Newsletter, 2005 Islander 36 Association of San Francisco Bay

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