



During our meeting, the aircraft carrier USS Bonhomme Richard arrived for fleet week.

Cruising Club of America - San Francisco Station October 5th, 2011- Saint Francis Yacht Club Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Ahari, Antrim, Barker, Baylis, Beek, Belmont, Cooper, Cornelius, Crowley, Dignan, Eaton, Enersen, Finley, Forsythe, Hanelt, Harris, Sally Honey, Stan Honey, Hedin, Hogg, Hunt, Jessie, Keegan, Klaus, Knecht, McCartney, Mehran, Messer, Olsen, Price, Jim Robinson, Rolien, J. Sanford, Walter Sanford and Van Blaricom,

1. Call to order: R/C Robby Robinson has gone to the East Coast for the Annapolis boat Show. Past R/C Steve Hunt chaired the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming, especially Terry Klaus for arranging this meeting.

2. Introduction of Guests: The day's guests were duly introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Special mention was made of Molly Robinson, the daughter of Jim Robinson. Molly is a member of the young team of 20 something year olds that were given an STP 65 by the US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point. After racing in various Eastern Seaboard regattas the crew raced across the Atlantic from Newport to the Lizard. Following that race they participated in the Fastnet Race where they came in 3rd place amongst over 300 boats.

3. Presiding chairman's Comments: Steve Hunt requested that the membership contact the Program chair Sally Honey, R/C Robinson or the secretary Zia Ahari for suggestions regarding speakers or venues to be visited for planning of next year's monthly Luncheon meetings.

He then reported on the participation of a team of 5 station members including the R/C Robinson, Bob Van Blaricom, Chair of the Membership Committee, and Zia Ahari, a member of the Board of Governors and Secretary/Treasurer of the Station in the Fall meeting of CCA to be held in Seattle, 13-16 October.

4. Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Treasurer reported that the balance of the Station account stood at \$2,337.99. He also reported that the combined Tomales Cruise and Coastal Cleanup BBQ were fully subsidized from the station's treasury.

5. Membership Report: Bob Van Blaricom reported that he was taking the applications of two candidates, Cree Partridge and Michael Moradzadeh, both experienced and accomplished sailors, and that he was certain of their success. He reported that he had one further candidate, Ray Lotto, for the next meeting.

6. Entertainment & National Cruise: Sally Honey reported on the next Luncheon meeting that will be held in Saint Francis Yacht Club. The speaker is John McCosker, a former Director of the California Academy of Sciences who will speak on Sharks! She also informed us that on Saturday October 9, Richmond Yacht Club will be hosting a seminar organized by Pacific Offshore Sailing Academy on the subject of preparations for offshore sailing.

Wyman Harris and Mary Crowley reported on the progress on Siam Cruise, the national cruise 2013 arranged by the San Francisco Station. They reported that there were 31 station members who were interested in the cruise. The number of interested participants nationally amounted to 131, out of which 42 were interested in sailing on the mother-ship. The total required to make the chartering of the mother-ship economically feasible was 50, a number not reached yet. Wyman requested the members to encourage friends and relatives to fill up the ranks. An extension of invitation to other clubs' members including Saint Francis and San Francisco Yacht Clubs was suggested. It was further reported that there were a number of larger crewed boats that were available, at the same price range or less, to replace the mother-ship if necessary. During November further bare-boat fleet will be added to the present boats and during December plans will be put forward suggesting an extension of the cruise to include more destinations. For full description of the mother-ship and any other detailed information members were referred to the CCA website and look under Siam Cruise.

7. Cruise Report: Doug Finley and Todd Hedin reported on the success of combined Tomales Bay Cruise and the International Coastal Cleanup undertaken by the Station as a part of the Ocean Conservancy efforts. There were 6 boats and 34 members and their guests who participated. The weather in Tomales Bay cooperated to the fullest with sunshine and pleasant temperature, a quite rare state of affairs in the area. Todd Hedin, Captain of the Cleanup effort of the Tomales Bay, reported of the unexpected cleanliness of the three beaches assigned to us. But he added that delivering the collected trash he was surprised by the amount of trash bags collected from the Bay Area beaches and the effect of the cleanup on the future of the beaches. Mary Crowley added that the Cleanup is part of an

International Day of coastal cleanup with participation of nations from India to Australia. For a detailed report on the cruise please refer to the report prepared by the R/C Robinson and mailed to members earlier.

8. Environment: Bill Foss is cruising in Turkey. He sent the following message in an E-mail: *"As Chair of our Environment of the Sea Committee, I want to commend those who participated in the beach clean-up during the Tomales Bay Cruise. Thanks particularly to Robby Robinson for his support of this effort and to Todd Hedin for leading it. I hope that this will become a station tradition and that other stations will follow our lead."*

9. Gam/Historian/Newsletter: John Sanford reported on progress in the publication of the latest issue of the GAM.

10. Cruising We Do: Dick Enersen reported on his cruise in Pacific Northwest and the unexpected fine weather he had experienced. He also mentioned meeting Wyman Harris who was cruising the area for the 10th year.

Wyman reported he was joined by Jerry and Karen Eaton on their own boat for cruising. He also reported joining the PNW station cruise, with 24 other boats. He found the members of the PNW station "Great People" and the cruise full of adventure and fun.

Bob Van Blaricom reported that *Misty*, his old boat, skippered by Peter Forest had reached Mauritius Island and were hoping to get to Cape Town, South Africa soon. It was also reported that Steve and Ginger Mason on board *Seajay* had reached Victoria BC after 8 days of tough sailing. At the final stage of the journey they had been chased by a southwesterly storm.



11. Day's Speaker: Presiding chairman Steve Hunt introduced station member Stan Honey. He is the Director of Technology for the America's Cup Event Authority for the 34th America's Cup. Stan is responsible for developing the tracking, telemetry and image overlay system that is being used to enhance TV coverage of the AC World Series and the 34th America Cup. Stan is internationally known

both on and off the water. Among Stan's many achievements are:

- 2010 US Rolex Yachtsman of the Year,

- Navigator of *Groupama III*, the present record holder for fastest nonstop circumnavigation under sail, the *Trophee` Jules Verne*.
- Two time Emmy Award winner for technical innovation in sport TV.

Outside the sailing circles Stan's impact on the sporting world has been felt worldwide. He has led the development of the Yellow First Line used in televised football, the NASCAR racecar tracking and highlighting system, and the baseball K-Zone system. Stan's innovations are used in other sports like ice hockey. Stan has 29 patents to his name in navigation, tracking and TV special effects. Stan is a graduate of Yale and has a MSEE from Stanford.

Stan gave a brief history of his professional career starting with the design of a tracking puck in ice hockey and extending the technology to other arenas of sports including baseball, football, NASCAR, and certain events of the Olympic Games. Meanwhile Stan has participated in competitive sailing creating various records the latest of which is navigating *Groupama III* holder of the fastest nonstop circumnavigation under sail. The tracking technique invented by Stan is based on using fixed cameras mounted around the arena recording the game, producing virtual digital lines pertaining to the rules of the game and superimposing them on actual recordings of the game. The resulting pictures enhance understating the fine points of the game for the general public, in the meantime providing the judges with more accurate indisputable base for decisions.



Following winning the America's Cup for the US, the organizers invited Stan Honey to take charge of the technical management of the race. This was a most suitable offer as it combined his love for technology while satisfying his addiction to Salt Water. The aim of the organizers was firstly to develop technological means to make the sport understandable for those not involved in the sport through television and secondly to change the judging of the races from its present arbitrary mostly impressionable way to a digitally and visually reproducible verifiable method. The races would be recorded through tracking devices and transmitted to a central especially designed computer system, enabling the umpires to come up with final uncontested decisions.

The plan is to expand the present form of tracking built around fixed recording cameras in land sports to a technology working with recording units and cameras mounted on floating bases (the boats) and airborne cameras mounted on hovering

helicopters. The recording devices would all transmit the videos to a central computer unit on land manned by the umpires. To achieve this goal Stan and his team that has followed him loyally since the beginning of the tracking endeavor realized that they had to resort to the use of technologies and equipment that were of high military value and top secret. To use the technology, permissions had to be obtained.

The final design that is presently being used is a combination of 4 onboard cameras on each participating 45' boat, a fluxgate controlled camera mounted under the belly of helicopters and individual cameras mounted on powerful jet-skis that are capable of speeds of up to 100 miles/hour used by on the water umpires. Because of the complex physical demands and multiplicity of operations expected from the jet-ski riding umpires, the organizers have been forced to employ Navy Seals to do the job. It is planned to use 8 cameras on board 70' AC boats. The information gathered by these cameras is relayed to a central computer room where the umpires decide on the progress and outcome of the races. The data collected and the virtual videos created by the computer center are made available on the AC website and on Youtube, both for participants and the general public. The crews are free to use the data for planning of the next races. The recordings of the actual events are posted on Youtube allowing the public all over the globe to follow the races without the restriction of TV contracts or time of broadcast.

As the results of the two races carried out so far, one in Cascais, Portugal and one in Plymouth UK indicate, the whole procedure of racing, recording and sharing the information is a developing process where all parties learn how to improve. To enhance the human aspects of the races the crews of the participating boats, are required to use their judgment on running the race. However the judgments on omissions and violations are all passed by the umpires using the collected data. This will hopefully reduce the risks of engagement in the courtroom battles that have followed each AC race.



Stan took questions from the public during his talk. One interesting question asked concerned the role of stronger finances of the individual participants. His answer was that those with healthier finances had the availability of more boats and replacements of damaged boats, parts and equipment.

12. New Business: Steve Hunt, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the results of deliberations of the committee. He presented Zia Ahari for the office of Rear Commodore and Bill Edinger as Secretary/Treasurer of the Station for 2012. A vote will be taken at the November meeting.

14. Next Meeting: Will be on **Wednesday November 2nd** to be held at the St. Francis Yacht Club

15. Adjournment: Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1415 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Zia E. Ahari
Secretary/Treasurer



All photos courtesy of Dick Enersen