



Catalina Association of Puget Sound Newsletter

June 2010

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Commodore's Corner

By Rich Lerz

**Don't forget, the June
CAPS meeting is June 4th**

Last weekend Deb and I attended the CAPS lifesling training at Meydenbauer. Later that evening I told several guests about the class and the overall experience. It was their response about how fortunate we are to have access to that type of training and an active club that promotes such events that really reminded me about what a great club CAPS is. While I look forward to seeing everyone each month at meetings and socials, it's the wealth of knowledge through member experience, guest speakers and training that non-members really forgo. Our guests were even more impressed to find out how little it costs to have access to all these benefits.

Well, it's Friday May 28th, one of my favorite days of the year as it marks for me, the official opening of boating season, and of course the PT Cruise. Ironically, Deb and I are sitting in a cove near Deception Pass having had to bail on the journey to PT because of rough weather packing 30kt winds and 10 foot swells this morning, though we'll continue on again tomorrow. As I sit here writing, I just got a call from Rod who is enroute, motoring of course for lack of wind, and an email from Tom M curious why my rough weather doesn't show up on his weather reports - UGG!! That's okay, as I guess being challenged on getting stuck in 80kt winds and 40 foot swells is all part of club membership! That's right, 100kt winds and 75 foot swells.

It's hard to believe the June regatta is already only 2 weeks away. Please be sure to get your registrations in. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and hope to see new faces from CATSS.

Northwest Catalina Regatta: June 12th

By Ken McKenzie

Are you registered for the regatta yet? No? You had better get moving! Right now Ken & Nancy are waiting for your registration for the regatta & barbeque so they can plan for food, trophies, raffle items etc. We need you to get your registration in now! The sooner we get them the more prepared we'll be. Help us out by getting out your checkbook, get a registration form from www.capsfleet1.com and get a check and registration in! It'll be here before you know it. June 12th isn't far away. Need help with your boat rating? Call me at home for help @ (425) 823-2849 and I'll get you a rating. Round up some friends and come out and play. Round up some strangers I don't care, just come out for the raffle and dinner if nothing else. Come race on someone else's boat if you don't want to race your own. Be at the Corinthian clubhouse between 8:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. and someone will pick you up for crew. It's fun!

LifeSling Practical Exercise

By Dick Eagle

Seventeen people participated in the LifeSling practical exercise on May 22nd. Thanks to Gary Wilson and Tom Madden who provided their boats, and Rich Lerz and Ken



McKenzie who dry-suited up and went into the water, everyone experienced the thrill of rigging crew-overboard recovery equipment and pulling someone out of the water. Everyone learned something new. And, everyone gained renewed enthusiasm for using jacklines, harnesses and tethers to keep everyone on board!

CPR Class June 26th

Don't forget that we will have CPR class on Saturday, June 26th at the Laurel Park clubhouse. Please let **Jim Fielder** know if you plan to come. There will be a \$40 per couple, or \$25 per person fee for the course.

Blakely Rock Benefit Race, 2010

By Tom Madden

April 10, 2010 finally arrived, and as usual, I had been watching the weather reports leading up to the race. All I can say is the weatherman must be having a bad year! The forecast changed every time I looked. For a while it

was for rain, then it was for light winds, and then just before the race it said south wind to 10 knots with scattered showers. That would not be too bad, although it was going to be to the chilly side.

There were 88 boats signed up; 3 non-flying and 8 flying sails divisions. Eight Catalinas were signed up, and six of them were members of CAPS:

Spirit Wind (Rod Johnson)
Chinook (Ummel, Rosain, Fielder, Disney)
Sweet Sue (Dave Motter)
Sea Sea Rider (Paul McManus)
Blue Fin (Alan Vogt)
Sea Trek II (Tom Madden)

As I made my way to the boat after the skipper's meeting, the weather was cool, but the wind was blowing from the north in the mid 20 knots, not the 10 knot southerly promised in the forecast. They did get the "unsettled weather and showers" part right!

With the crew on board, we headed out for the start line, while we watched the white caps and big waves out in the middle of the sound. We opted for the 125% genoa, and thought that unless the wind died down a bit, would just go wing-and-wing and keep the spinnaker below. We sailed back and forth on main alone waiting for the start, and got a feel for the wind and the waves. We were in the 5th start, so we had to wait while the other divisions started. The 11:00 first division went off OK, but shortly after the second division left, we heard a series of horns, and the a call on the radio for all boats except division 1 to return to the start. We did not know what was going on, but just kept an eye on the flags so we could get back in sync with our start. It took about 40 minutes for all the boats to be rounded up and get going again, so our start was not until 12:15. The wind was still howling from the north, running mostly in the low 20s with gusts above 25 or so. Waves were about 3 to 5 feet, and everyone donned life jackets just to be safe.



Sea Trek II heading for the Blakely Rock Benefit Race start. Michael Chandler is on the bow watching for other boats, and the rest of us are in the cockpit waiting for the next wave and spray to fly up and give us another "salt water shower". *Celtic Breeze*, (an Erickson 38) is on our hip.

We got our start ok, and sailed up the short distance to the Meadow Point buoy, then around and onto the long downwind leg to Blakely Rock. We used the spinnaker pole for a wing-and-wing downwind run, and were making 6 to 8 knots as we flew down Puget Sound and kept clear of other boats and commercial traffic. As we

progressed down Bainbridge Island, the wind seemed to let up a bit from time to time, only to come back again in the low 20s, so we stayed with the plan of non flying sails for the time being. As we got a little south of Winslow Harbor, the wind let up to 14-16 knots, so we decided we would fly the spinnaker. We got it up and flying, and gained a little speed in the process. Soon the wind came back, but not much more than low 20s, so we were OK as long as we were careful. Flying the kite in 20+ knots of breeze keeps the boat “on the edge”, but it’s controllable unless we have to make a sudden maneuver or something breaks. I was the one flying the kite, and the pull on the sheet was getting a bit much, so I asked for another wrap on the winch. Somehow, as the crew was adding the wrap, they ended up losing one instead of putting another one on. That was just enough distraction that the helmsman reached over to help and took his hands off the wheel in the process. Soon we were in the process of rounding up, and there we were-- close reaching with the spinnaker back winded. Somehow in all the confusion the foreguy must have come out of the cam cleat, because the pole was hard up against the forward lower shroud, and the pole tubing had buckled about 3’ back from the end fitting. We doused the spinnaker, got the pole back down on deck, and headed off towards the Blakely Rock again, and tried to get everything back in order to sail well with just the 125% genoa and no whisker pole. All was well (other than the pole) and we were getting ready for the rounding and the long beat back up the Puget Sound to Shilshole. We tried to find our competition, but with the unexpected round-up and the large number of boats in the race, it was pretty hard to find anyone in our division. The other CAPS boats had all started well before us, so picking them out was impossible.

We made our way back up to the north, and figured we might be able to clear West Point with only one tack if we headed towards Bainbridge when we got to the center of the shipping lanes. There was a fair amount of discussion about whether to head for the Seattle side or the Bainbridge side, and I’m still not sure we made the right decision. We did manage to clear West Point, and made our way to the S-F line in one long tack. Although the wind was still pretty strong, the rest of the race was pretty uneventful. As we got closer to West Point, we could pick out some of the other boats in our division, and it seems our decision to head for the west side of the Sound may not have been the best choice. We will know better next time.

Final results for the CAPS boats:

1 st place:	Spirit Wind	2:01:41
2 nd place:	Sea Trek II	2:02:21
3 rd place	Chinook	2:13:00
4 th place	Sweet Sue	2:13:52
5 th place	Sea Sea Rider	2:56:41
6 th place	Blue Fin	On Course Side (at start)

That’s it for racing until Catalina Day, which is on our CAPS schedule for June 12th at Shilshole. See you all there!

CAPS Calendar

APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Apr. 9 <i>Monthly Meeting</i> 6:30 PM, Laurel Park	May 14 <i>Monthly Meeting</i> 6:30 PM, Laurel Park	Jun. 4 <i>Monthly Meeting</i> 6:30 PM, Laurel Park
Apr. 10 Sloop Tavern Blakely Rock Race	May 28-29 Port Townsend Cruise	Jun. 12 Shilshole CYC Northwest Catalina Regatta
Apr. 23-25 CAPS-CATSS Bell Harbor Cruise	May 22 Lifesling Practical Exercise	Jun.18-20 Manzanita Bay Anchor-out
	May 30-31 Mystery Bay Anchor-out	Jun, 26 CPR at Laurel Park

<p>JULY</p> <p>Jul. 2-4 Gunkhole Anchor-out Marathon —Poulsbo Fireworks, Manzanita, Pt Madison</p> <p>No monthly meeting</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>Aug. 6-8 Everett Cruise Birthday and Crab Feast (If the season is still open) At the guest dock</p> <p>No monthly meeting</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Sep 3-6 Poulsbo Cruise</p> <p>Sept. 10 <i>Monthly Meeting</i> 6:30 Laurel Park</p> <p>Sept. 17-19 CAPS & CATSS Catalina Rendezvous</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>Oct. 2 Foul Weather Bluff Race</p> <p>Oct. 9 <i>Monthly Meeting</i> Saturday Couples' Cook-off Laurel Park</p> <p>Oct. 15-17 Brownsville Cruise</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>Nov. 12 <i>Monthly Meeting</i> 6:30 Laurel Park Elections</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>Dec. 4 Annual Christmas Party Potluck and Gift Exchange (Boat Gift and/or White Elephant) Laurel Park</p>

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