



island yacht club

# MainSheet

January/February 2010

Alameda Marina, Alameda, CA

Volume 39 Issue 1

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*Mainsheet* is published monthly by:

Island Yacht Club, Inc.  
Alameda Marina  
1853 Clement Ave.  
Alameda, CA 94501

[www.iyc.org](http://www.iyc.org)

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## New Year's Eve Party and Annual Alameda Circumnavigation



*By Dave Bloch, Mainsheet Editor*

Does anything quite emphasize the fact that we're the **Island** Yacht Club better than sailing all the way around our home? This annual New Year's tradition lets everyone see all the coasts of Alameda Island in one day.

Of course, the night before, lots of IYC'ers celebrated the passing of the Old and starting of the New!

Lots of photos in this issue of *Mainsheet*! But there are many more at our new Flickr.com site. **Thank You** to photographers Rob MacFarlane, Jane Brown, Dawn Chesney, Kristen Soetebier, John New, and anyone I might have missed.

Remember, our next issue of *Mainsheet* will be out **March 1**. Happy New Year!



**IN THIS ISSUE:****CoLog** by David Ross**From the Editor's Desk** by Dave Bloch**Welcome Aboard!** by Cindy Wagner**Racing Report** by John New**Happy New Year!** by Dawn Chesney**Historical Haze** by Helen & Malcolm Sowers**Joyce Logan in the Iron Dog Hall of Fame**  
submitted by Betty Sleeth**PHOTO SECTION:** *New Year's Eve party at AYC; New Year's Day Circumnavigation; Jan 9 Island Days race.***RENEWAL TIME!****Don't forget to send in your annual IYC dues and renewal form.**Cutoff date is **February 28**

(after that, you'll have to pay the \$100 Late Renewal Fee; don't want that!).

If the economy has hit you hard, contact Membership Chair Cindy Wagner about a one-year **Leave of Absence**.Get the Renewal form at  
<http://iyc.org/forms/MembershipApplication2010.pdf>**JAN/FEB EVENTS CALENDAR**

Jan 30 — IYC CRAB FEED!

Feb 6 — Sea Scout Ship SEA FOX Crab Feed

Feb 7 — Super Bowl Potluck Party

Feb 9 — Board Meeting

Feb 14 — Island Days Midwinter #4

(BYO Chocolate Bon-Bons)

Feb 27 — Sadie Hawkins Race & Chowder Cook-off;  
Woman Skipper Full Crew!

Feb 28 — Membership \$ for 2010 deadline!

Who said winter is dull? NOT AROUND HERE!  
Check out this list of events now thru February!**CoLog, January 2010**

By Commodore David Ross

Two parties on New Years Day? IslandYC provided the launch pad for some Alameda Island circumnavigators—serving 20 or so adventurers—by offering a “lite-fare” breakfast of chicken and veggie sausages lovingly cooked up by Joyce Brack, plus some bagels, fruit salad, Danish assortment, coffee and other eye-openers traditionally found near a bar on “Hangover Day.”

Most Islanders cruised properly, by boat, giving Alameda's four bridge tenders their workout of the year while a small contingent (including yours truly) black-topped to neighboring clubs. Popular stops included Aeolian, Ballena Bay, and Encinal YCs.

A good time and dry skies were had by all, as reported back at the Club's second party of the day where all guests were welcomed with hot snacks, fresh-baked cookies, a lousy Rose Bowl (the Pac 10 team lost), and more healing libations. The p.m. gathering peaked when qualified cruisers were honored with a most official **Certificate of Circumnavigation**, suitable for framing!

Ready to party some more? Hint: avoid crustaceans the week before January 30 and check out the club's calendar of events for the last Saturday of the month. Info elsewhere in this Mainsheet. 🚤



Line of boats passes thru San Leandro Channel near Aeolian Yacht Club on New Year's Day. (Notice the marker; you need high tide to get through there!)

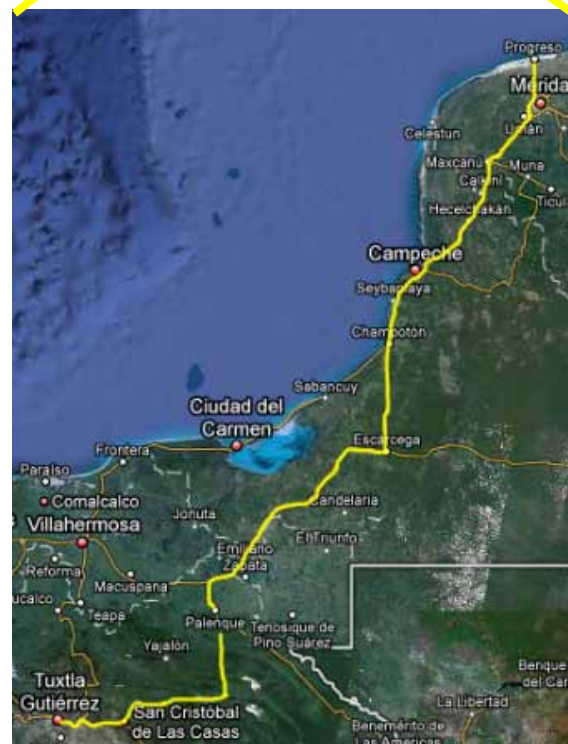
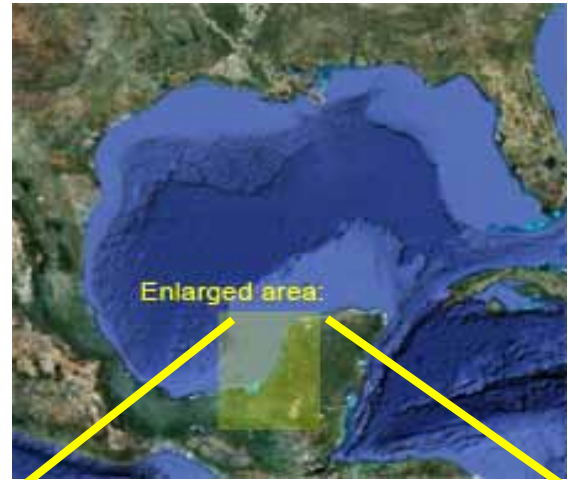
**FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

*By Dave Bloch*

I missed all the New Year's fun around IYC, but for the best possible reason—our holiday trip down to Mexico. We ventured far from our beach house this time, deep into the Maya lands of **Chiapas** in southern Mexico. It was a fascinating combination of many different environments (including the beautiful city of **San Cristobal de las Casas** at 6,890 feet elevation) and different cultures (the ancient Maya and modern Zapatista, mixing and overlapping with each other and the larger society).

Our trip included visits to the very famous Maya city of **Palenque**, and the hardly-visited ruin of **Tonina**; the latter home to both the highest Maya temple (yes, higher than Chichen Itza), the army that defeated the much larger city of Palenque, and the very latest-dated stone record (909 CE) found anywhere in the Maya lands. We took a boat trip up the awesome Canyon de Sumidero, a 3,000-foot-deep gorge reminiscent of Hetch Hetchy, and a taxi trip to view the canyon from its rim.

So where does sailing come into this? We learned that an important international regatta took place in November, with the finish line right at our own town of Progreso! The *La Ruta Solidaria del Chocolate* was a 5,000-mile race from Nantes, France to Progreso, a journey of 26 to 32 days by more than thirty Class 40 boats. The regatta celebrates chocolate (a product of both countries), and every boat must raise at least \$36,000 from sponsors to be donated to charities. "The regatta will be sent off with a flurry of concerts, exhibitions, games, workshops and other activities, all focusing on chocolate." (You could do worse, Yes?)



*Our route from Progreso, Yucatan thru Chiapas.*



*The flags of the regatta and all participating countries fly over Progreso's new recreational pier. The city's famed 5-mile-long commercial shipping pier stretches out into the Gulf of Mexico at the right.*

We found the regatta Website at <http://www.lasolidaire-duchocolat.com> and really had to feel some pride in our adopted city of 50,000. All of the articles from the French press praised the people of Progreso and the State of Yucatan for pro-

*Continued on next page*



*Clouds hang low over the Canyon de Sumidero, east of Tuxtla Gutierrez.*

**From the Editor's Desk**


*continued from previous page*

viding a wonderful welcome! With apologies for the Google translation, here is a piece of the article announcing the arrival of the winners, Tanguy de Lamotte and Adrien Hardy:

Upon arrival, the Bay of Progreso was ignited by a fireworks salute from the athletic prowess of duo. "It's great! We never imagined seeing so many people. Thanks to the organization and all for this superb race. It is really super happy!" ... On the pier, the fishermen of Progreso was waiting to provide a celebration in the pure Mayan tradition.

As a result of the race, a completion of a new fishing and tie-up pier was pushed to completion, and is a real asset to the town. And the organizers are looking forward to planning a sequel!

We DID stick around long enough to see the Lighted Boat Parade on the Estuary. A large group of IYC folks gathered at Marina Village for a great view of the parade! Not the easiest thing to photograph, but my phone did get one that's publishable.

Please note that the next *Mainsheet* will be the **MARCH** issue. Any late news or calendar changes will be Emailed and posted to **IYC.ORG**. 



*Just one of the entries in the 2009 Lighted Boat Parade!*

**HISTORICAL HAZE**

*By Helen and Malcolm Sowers, IYC Historians*

**Crab Feeds**

IYC's first crab feed was in **1976**, costing \$3.75 per person. The announcement in the Bull-e-tin was:

**Island Yacht Club announces the First Crab Feed**

**The time, the date, the place is set**

**We guarantee you that it's a sure bet.**

**The seats are numbered cause the chairs are few**

**So get your reservations in by**

**Feb. 23rd or you'll be blue.**

The event was tremendously popular and reservations were a must!

In **1978** the ditties continued,

**CRABRABCRABCRABCRABCRAB  
CRABCRABCRABCRABCRAB** (Get the idea?)

**The time has come for all out there  
to have our annual crab affair.**

**Don't be slow, don't be late—**

**for those who are won't have a plate.....**

(The Feb. 1978 *Bulletin* announced that the reservations were closed by Feb. 7)

January **1982** *Bulletin* subtly stated:

**EXPOSÉ: I Got Crabs at IYC!**

The price was \$8.00 and over 200 people attended.

During the early 80s between 200 and 250 people came to the crab feeds. But by 1989 the number was down to 75. The price continued to rise from the initial \$3.75 to \$14 by 1987. Now, of course, it is \$30, but still a bargain.

This year will be the 35th annual crab feed. Reserve, come, and enjoy!



**WELCOME ABOARD!**

By Cindy Wagner, Membership Chair

New member **Kristen Soetebier** grew up in a sailing family and lived in the Midwest, on the East Coast and later in Atlanta. She moved to the Bay Area in 1997 and works at a law firm in San Francisco.

Kristen's father owned a Morgan 25 and they sailed Lake Superior and the Chesapeake Bay during her childhood. Her family was also sailboat racing family. Her Uncle Jack was one of the people who started the **Trans Superior Race** in 1969, which runs between Michigan and Minnesota.

On July 18, 2009, Kristen became the owner of a Cal 20, *Kapi'i*, via a Craigslist posting for Free Boats. Of course, the free part doesn't last long! As fate would have it, *Kapi'i* was berthed at Grand Marina in a slip down the pier from John New's *Wuvulu*.

In January, 2009, Kristen met John, was then introduced to Dawn and quickly became involved in IYC activities. Not long after, John was crewing for Kristen in the IYC **Sadie Hawkins** double-handed race. Word has it that John wanted to DNF when it got slow and Kristen would not hear of it. They hung in and finished the race.

Kristen is an active participant in the IYC race series with her regular crew of Sylvia Seaberg and Nancy Jensen. If you keep an eye out, you will also see Kristen and her crew racing on the Bay. In the midst of one of this year's Party Circuit races, Ward and I looked over and there was *Kapi'i* beautifully sailing along.

One of Kristen's most memorable sailing adventures was this past summer on a Ranger Fun 23 racing from the Berkeley Circle to Alcatraz and back. Having completed the downwind run and heading toward the upwind run, a miscalculation dumped the boat with Kristen ending up with her face in the water. Fellow crewmember Nancy, caught hold of the very wet Kristen and they proceeded to finish the race.

Kristen's most recent adventure was the **Baja HaHa** sailing from San Diego to Cabo aboard a Gulfstar 50 along with Dawn and John. That wasn't quite enough sailing so after briefly returning to the Bay Area, Kristen flew back to San Diego and helped motor sail *Tiger Beetle* (a Nelson/Marek 45) from San Diego to San Francisco Bay with a few layovers in various ports to wait out weather systems. The HaHa was an adventure Kristen will never forget for many reasons.

Although a new member, Kristen has been actively involved with the club all year and received the **Most Improved Novice Racer** award at this year's Change of Watch party. Kristen will be even more involved with the club this year as she has agreed to serve on the Board as IYC's Secretary for 2010!

Please welcome Kristen when you next see her. 🚩



New IYC Board Secretary Kristen Soetebier!



Kristen on the New Year's Day Alameda Island Circumnavigation (looking quite warm and cozy)

**RACING REPORT**

By John New, Racing Chair

**The Island Days Race #3, Sunday January 10th**

When I got to the club around 0900, there were **Steve Taylor** and **Carmine Gaidasz** in the galley with the chili pot simmering on the stove—great chili! Steve tried out his Fettuccini with Clam Sauce on the racers as well....yummm.

We had a little panic at **Start minus 30 minutes**, when there were no race officers in sight. Dawn called **Glen Krawiec**, our backup PRO (Primary Race Officer), who was busy making crème caramel at home. **Joel Sailer** had the Zodiac out setting the marks and there were plenty of boats milling around waiting for the race. We had **31** boats entered and almost all showed up! I asked **Thom Mantooh**, our race scorer, if he would like to run the race, but by the time I got to the start area Glen Krawiec was on the race deck. Whew!

The Race Committee wanted a little more room for the start so *Wuvulu* reset the start finish mark closer to Coast Guard Island. Unfortunately, there was a Dutra Dredging Tug and barge heading back to the Dutra yard near the Park Street Bridge that we didn't factor into the start equation. Dawn said she thought the tug might run over the mark but I said, "Naw, they'll miss it, right?"


About then the Tug skipper opened his door, stepped out and asked *Wuvulu* if the start buoy was anchored. I informed him that yes, it was. I don't know if he thought we should dart in front of the barge and move it out of the way or what, but *Wuvulu* isn't that good at darting. No need though; the Tug skipper stepped back in the wheel house and hit reverse hard; there was a huge prop wash and the Tug and barge backed to a stop within feet of the buoy, the deck hand on the barge deftly hooked the start buoy and moved it to the side of the tug as it hit forward again with an equally huge prop wash and away they went. Wow! Kristen Soetebier and Rob Tiger Beetle MacFarlane were out in Rob's dink taking pics of the start, so we reset the mark again and the race was on.

The delay of the start worked out as there was good wind for the combined A,B,C divisions in the first start. There were so many boats that the combined start was a little crowded. There were more than the usual number of calls for room-to-tack on the Alameda side, and yells for "Starboard!" and some frayed nerves, but no collisions. We'll go without a combined start and forgo some of the drama for the next midwinter.

We had a good view of *Rascally Rui* and *Crazy Eights Aaron* dueling it out with the *J29 Audacious* and Greg Nelson's *Azorra 310 Outsider*, for first to finish in division C. Elsewhere Roger England has a good sail with his *Wilderness 21* for a 1st in the non-spin division. Steve Bayles' *J24, Dire Straits* and the blind sailors took second in the 168 division behind Loraine's *Merit 24 Bewitched*. And Mike Jackson's black *Columbia 5.5 Wings* took a first in the 181+ division with our fearless lead-

er Commodore David Ross, in his *Catalina 27 Bodrum Sunset* in second.

Special thanks to Joel for manning the start/finish shotgun, setting and picking up the marks and putting the crash boat away; what a guy. Also thanks to Glen for letting his Crème Carmel get cold, to Thom for running the race results and to **Jane Brown** for getting some photos. We also had a guest for the day, **Colleen Chang**, who helped on Race Committee and is looking to get on a boat next month.

Next *Midwinter Island Days* is **Valentine's Day, February 14th**. The *Sadie Hawkins* race is Saturday the 27th of February. 



Boats jockey for position at the combined start



A very big barge, and our very small start marker

**More great pictures in our  
PHOTO SECTION at the  
end of this Mainsheet!**

ALSO: check out our new *IYCPHOTOS* site at **Flickr.com!** IYC members contact the Mainsheet Editor for login information.

## Happy New Year!!!

By Dawn Chesney, Staff Commodore

What fun we had!

**New Year's Eve** was well attended by IYC members David & Devon Hand, Joyce Brack, Joni Ruttenbur, Kristen Soetebier, John New and me, along with former IYCers the McPeeks and IYC regular visitors Rob MacFarlane and Nancy Jensen. We all celebrated the New Year at Alameda Yacht Club. For \$10 we enjoyed the festivities with party hats and noise makers, some finger food and a terrific band; we all brought 2010 in with style.


You'd think after that we'd be too tired to go 'round the Island the next day, but not so! We offered a continental breakfast at IYC the next morning, then boarded our boats to circumnavigate. Mark & Joel Sailer sailed *Strange Bird* with Dick Vandenberg and Hobie Mom Judy. David Shea sailed *Starshine* with Joyce and Joni. John sailed *Wuvulu* with Glen Krawiek, Joan Wetherell, Nancy, Kristen, and Rob. I boat-hopped and got to do a leg on each vessel.

And then there were the Blacktoppers...David Ross, Lilia Celhay, Jane Brown, Pam Krawiek, Merlin (the dog), Toby (the dog), Bob Naber and former IYCer Caroline Mines.

After passing under the three Estuary drawbridges, our first stop was Aeolian YC who hosted a large crowd on the outside deck. (Fortunately, even though the sky was grey, it never did rain!)

After some chili and socializing we "sailed" under The Bay Farm Island Bridge and west to Ballena Bay YC for some BBQ and more socializing. Finally, the the long "sail" around the tip of our island, then down the Estuary IYC for more food and socializing.

Whew, what fun! Many people came by the clubhouse to get their official **Certificates of Circumnavigation**, only available at IYC.

So mark your calendar for January 1 2011! We'd love to have you join us! 



IYC'ers at the Alameda YC New Year's Eve party



Our boats parade under the High Street Bridge.

## Joyce Logan in the Iron Dog Hall of Fame

(Thanks to Betty Sleeth for forwarding this Email from former long-time IYC member Joyce Logan!)

Hi Everyone! Well, here I am tooting my own horn again, but I wanted to share with all my friends an event in my life that is one of the most thrilling things that has ever happened to me.

The **Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic Snowmachine Race** has named me to the **Iron Dog Hall of Fame**. I am so thrilled about this—Wow, what an honor! I still can not believe it, never in this world would have thought it. I will be inducted the 13th of Feb at the baquet they hold each year prior to the race. Just wanted to share this with you!

For those that may have never heard of it, Iron Dog is the world's longest snowmachine race. It is a grueling race of 2,000

miles from Big Lake to Nome and then to Fairbanks. My place is the first checkpoint on the race and so we see a lot of the "Doggers" as they practice from about the first snowfall.

It is an awesome race and they are awesome people. I have had the pleasure of serving on the board and had lots and lots of help from all my neighbors, friends and relatives to make this happens so the honor goes to all of them also. They all have done a ton of work to make this race happen! Read more about Iron Dog at [www.irondog.org](http://www.irondog.org).



**PHOTO SECTION**

This is just a selection of the many pictures (and videos!) submitted to our new site on Flickr.com . If you are a member of IYC, please contact *Mainsheet* Editor Dave Bloch for the login/password needed to view most of them. (That login will also enable you to post your own sailing photos to the site!)

**New Year's Eve / New Year's Day**



*IYC folk are joined by other revelers at AYC*



*Passing under the Fruitvale Bridge  
(this is a single frame of the video posted to Flickr.com)*



*Staff Commodore Dawn Chesney with Mark Sailer (plus Joel Sailer and Dick Vandenberg) on Strange Bird just past the Fruitvale Bridge*



*IYC members and friends at Aeolian YC on New Year's Day*



*Out the Estuary and into the San Leandro Channel*



*The New Year's morning gathering at Aeolian YC. (Everyone is conscious of the time and tides; the Channel is dicey at low water.)*

**New Year's Eve / New Year's Day**



Our boats follow the narrow dredged channel to the Bay Farm Island Bridge...



...which opens obediently for them to pass through. (The blue bridge is the separate bike path and was completed in 1995. How many working bicycle drawbridges are there in the USA, anyway? According to Alameda County, exactly **ONE**. Info at <http://tinyurl.com/bikedrawbridge>)



The "far point" of the circumnavigation—Ballena Bay YC

**MOVIE NIGHT — FRIDAY JANUARY 8**

IYCers and friends gathered to watch *Morning Light*, a Disney documentary (produced by Roy Disney himself) about 15 teenagers (many with little sailing experience) selected to race the 2007 Transpac from southern California to Hawaii. View the trailer at <http://www.traileraddict.com/trailer/morning-light/trailer>



Joni Ruttenbur and the Sailors



Dawn Chesney with mother and daughter Jane and Joy Brown

**MOVIE NIGHT** continued



*George Lythcott, Cecelia, Dawn Chesney, Marcellus Salizar, Joyce Brack and Mark Sailer*



*Dawn accepts the first registration fee for the 2010 Women's Sailing Seminar for Marilyn Simpson, as a gift from Mark Sailer*



*David Ross, Lilia Celhay, Joyce Brack, John New, Speranza Avram and Dave Bloch settle in to watch the movie*

**Island Days Race, Sunday January 10**



*Dire Straits with Steve Bayles, Philip Kum, Danette Davis and George Lythcott*



*Photographer/IYC Treasurer Jane Brown, Colleen Chang and Rear Commodore Joel Sailer keep an eye on things from the crash boat.*



All the Fresh Crab you could ever want is right here at  
Island Yacht Club!

**Saturday January 30**

5:30 Happy Hour

7:00 All You Can Eat Crab

\$30 per person prepaid by Wed, Jan 27

(or \$35 at the door)

Salad, garlic bread, pasta, ice cream, and...

Best of all...your friends!

**Reserve your Crab NOW before we sell out.**

Call Dave Bloch : 510-978-4192  
Or Email: [dave@virtualameda.com](mailto:dave@virtualameda.com)

***And don't forget to update your calendar:***

**Sadie Hawkins Race & Chowder Cook-off Feb 27**

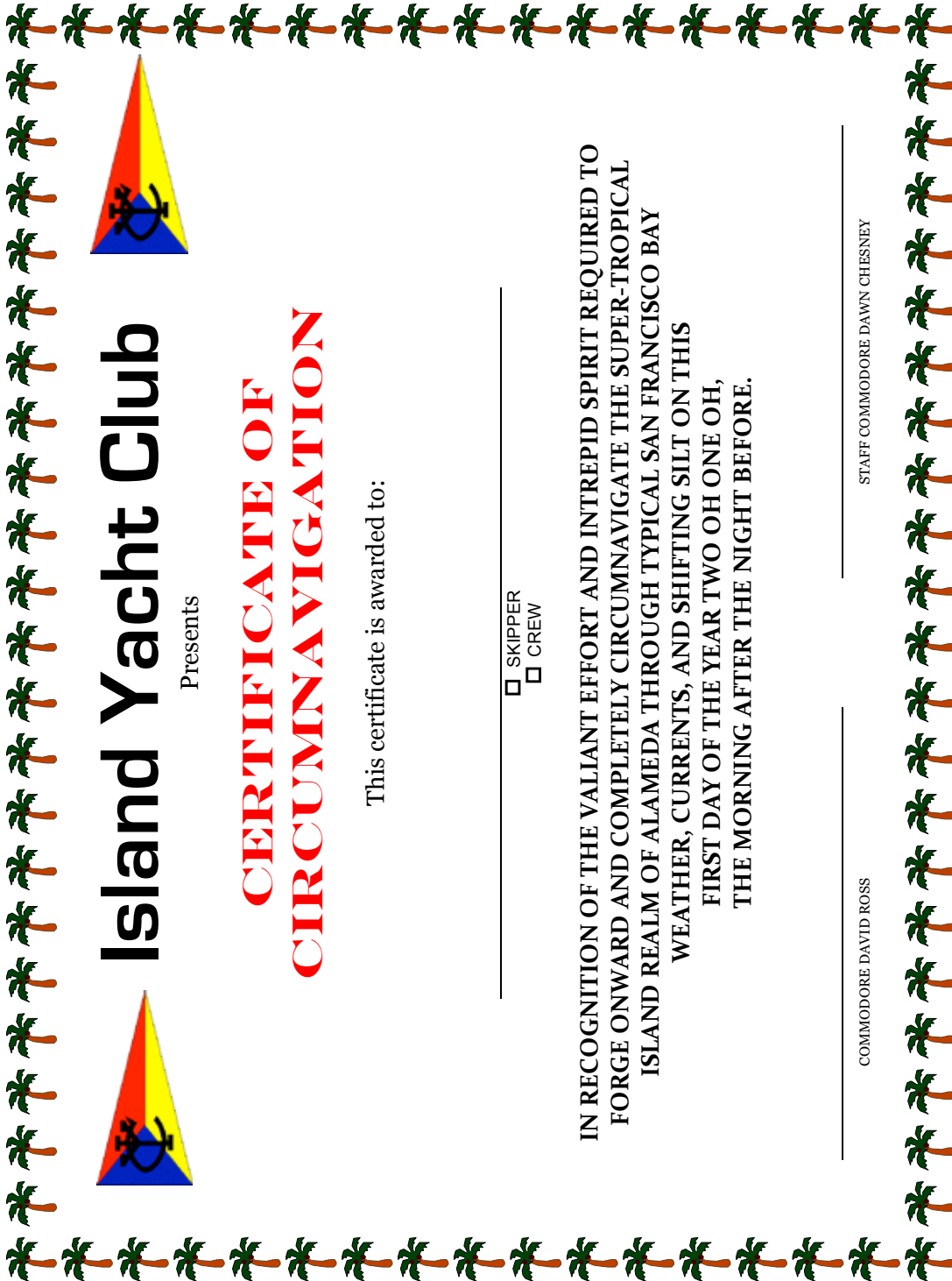
Women skippers - Estuary courses - Hot chowder contenders!

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Reserve your crabs: # \_\_\_\_\_ of dinners @ \$30 each \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

If you missed out on getting this prestigious certificate on New Year's Day...  
Be sure to come out next year!



# Island Yacht Club

Presents

## CERTIFICATE OF CIRCUMNAVIGATION

This certificate is awarded to:

- SKIPPER
- CREW

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VALIANT EFFORT AND INTREPID SPIRIT REQUIRED TO  
 FORGE ONWARD AND COMPLETELY CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE SUPER-TROPICAL  
 ISLAND REALM OF ALAMEDA THROUGH TYPICAL SAN FRANCISCO BAY  
 WEATHER, CURRENTS, AND SHIFTING SILT ON THIS  
 FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR TWO OH ONE OH,  
 THE MORNING AFTER THE NIGHT BEFORE.

COMMODORE DAVID ROSS

STAFF COMMODORE DAWN CHESNEY