Island Yacht Club

MainSheet

BROWSER EDITION

October 2011 Alameda Marina, Alameda, CA Volume 40 Issue 9

BROWSER EDITION:
This Mainsheet is one long strip, designed for easy scroll-downward reading in Adobe Acrobat or your browser! (You will never have to scroll UP to finish an article.) This version is not designed to be easily printed, but just visit the IYC Website at www.IYC.org to download our printer-friendly version!

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Another Great *Women's Sailing Seminar* Teaches New Skills and Sharpens Existing Ones

The 19th Annual Northern California Women's Sailing Seminar brought together female sailors, young and old to share and learn in this outstanding educational event. See our two articles in this issue!

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THE REST OF 2011 CALENDAR

Sat Oct 15	YRA Championship Races
Sun Oct 16	Pirates in Paradise Fundraising Event
Sat Oct 22	***Oktoberfest!*** Dinner/Speaker
Sun Nov 6	Jack & Jill + 1 Race/Chili Cookoff
Tue Nov 8	Board Meeting
Sun Nov 13	Island Days Race #1
Sat Nov 19	**Change of Watch Fiesta Dinner**
Sun Nov 20	Breakfast/Calendar Meeting/Commodore's Cup
Sat Dec 3	Lighted Yacht Parade "Cartoon Christmas"
Sun Dec 11	Island Days Race #2
Tue Dec 13	Board Meeting

COMMODORE'S CORNER

By Dave Bloch

First, a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make this year's **Women's Sailing Seminar** another successful event! It happened in my absence, but it was apparent at the planning meetings that everything was under control, and reports back since have all sounded just great.

A very special Thank You to **IYC Treasurer Jane Brown**, who took charge of the Planning Committee from the beginning, on top of her responsibilities to home, career, and the volunteering she already does for IYC.

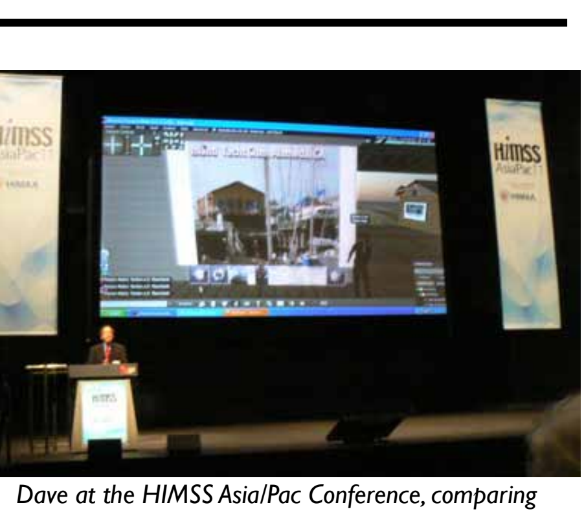
As you all know by now, Speranza and I missed WSS because we were off in Australia for 17 days. This was a combined work/pleasure trip; a health technology organization flew me there to make a presentation and a keynote speech about healthcare in 3-D virtual worlds (like Second Life, where IYC has our virtual presence). Naturally, we took the opportunity to have a sightseeing vacation; neither of us had ever been "Down Under" (or anywhere even close).

I'll save the travelogue for another time and place, but we did have the opportunity to do two burgee exchanges. The first was at the **Drummoyne Sailing Club** in the Sydney metropolitan area. DSC is a large club with a full-service restaurant, marina, and various kinds of gambling (which is very common in Australian private clubs of all kinds). The second exchange was with **Newhaven Yacht Squadron**, a club much more of our size on Phillip Island, a world-famous (for its unique nightly **Penguin Parade**) vacation destination southeast of Melbourne. I'll present both of these burgees to the club at our October 22 **Oktoberfest** membership dinner.

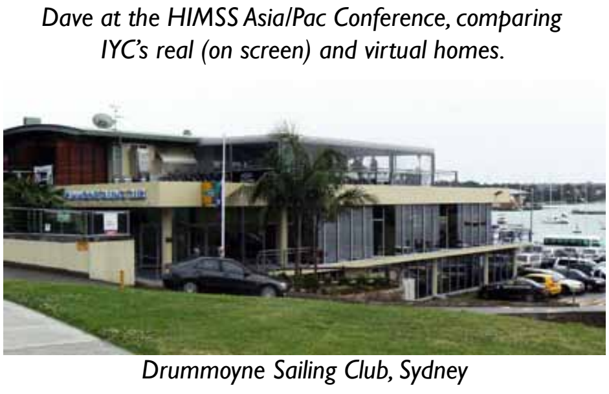
Meanwhile, our **Alameda America's Cup citizens advisory committee** has been busy, generating ideas and getting the word out (both locally and to some of the AC teams around the world) that our island is here, has great weather, some really valuable facilities, and a warm welcome. Other agencies including the Coast Guard, Metropolitan Transit Authority and the City of Oakland have sent representatives to our meetings to offer help and be sure our activities are coordinated with theirs. We'll be working in the near future to educate local business owners about what the AC could mean for their business if they take some steps to take advantage of it. Lots more to come on this in the coming months!

This is my last article to appear in this space; *Mainsheet* will take a break in November (the move to live aboard *Buoyant* will just take too much time, and I may not have an office to work in for a while). The December *Mainsheet* "Commodore's Corner" will be the first one by new Commodore Kristen Soetebier! I'll drop back down to just doing my "Editor's Desk" each month (so No, you're not rid of me yet).

THANK YOU to everyone in IYC who helped make this a really enjoyable year for me! I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.



Dave at the HIMSS Asia/Pac Conference, comparing IYC's real (on screen) and virtual homes.



Drummoyne Sailing Club, Sydney

Newhaven Yacht Squadron, Phillip Island

Speranza and Dave in front of...
(darn, what is that building again??)

WSS 2011 Photos:

I received several dozen photos from **Rich Ahlf** of this year's event. You'll find a few of them here in this *Mainsheet*, but be sure to visit our site at Flickr.com to see many more!

Go to **http://tinyurl.com/2011wssphotos** and click the SLIDESHOW button at the upper right.

Change of Watch Party November 19!

Ole! Get ready for a *Fiesta!* Our **Change of Watch Dinner Party** (and IYC Annual Meeting) will have a Mexican theme, in honor of our Commodore and his First Mate (Admiral?) who have their retirement home in the State of Yucatan, Mexico.

Señoras y señoritas, get out your highest *tacones* (high heels) and your sparkliest dresses. Señores, find something besides your racing jeans! There will be Latin music, dancing, lots of *comida* (food) and a piñata loaded with goodies. Bar opens officially at 5:00PM; drink specials—Margaritas, of course; and sangria; and music and appetizers to get you in the party mood.

All members will receive an invitation in the mail, but ***Save the Date—November 19!***

Capture the Power!

By Janet Frankel, Staff Commodore (2001)

"Oh! You're the lady who taught my class yesterday, you were wearing the little black dress! I didn't recognize you!" This on Sunday, from a surprised **Women's Sailing Seminar** participant, back inside the clubhouse after our Sunday races.

I'd been on the water, aboard **Bill Bridge**'s Santana 22 *Ahi*, teaching the Racing OTW (On The Water) class. On Saturday, when I showed up to teach Advanced Sail Trim in the classroom, I was dressed for my friends' silver wedding anniversary, for which I decamped immediately after the first WSS session.

Jane Brown, IYC Treasurer, took on the role of WSS Chair / Coordinator. WSS is a team effort of such magnitude that a few years ago, we ceased to run WSS with just one "Chair" and instead adopted a "Core Committee" approach.

Anyways, it was somewhat of a surprise for Jane to be appointed WSS Chair; Jane told me the Board asked her several times if she would do it, and Jane responded, firmly, "No." In the end, with the blinding flash of some smoke and mirrors, and possibly a jolly evening at the IYC bar, Jane found herself appointed WSS Chair 2011. Surprise, Jane! Well, you sure pulled it together and did a great job! The satisfied and glowing faces of the women on Sunday, at the end of the two day seminar, told it all. (I hear there were many gratified and excited faces on Saturday night, too, but I didn't get to see them.) And such fab prizes! Such a clean club! What lovely WSS décor! Oh the WSS swag! I particularly love my mint green lunch tote and my new WSS sailing tee.

Back to Saturday morning; I arrived prepared to teach, with ukulele and handouts at the ready. A definite highlight was a little pre-class sail trim conversation I had with Sailing Jedi Master **Linda Newland**, one of my personal heroes. (I mean, of course, heroines.) Armed with my new bit of knowledge, I bounded off to **Hogin Sails** with my students.

It is quite different, teaching in a classroom. You can't just tell a student to pull on the jib sheet so they can actually see what happens while you simultaneously describe how it affects the sail. Oh—but wait, over at Hogin Sails, we jerry-rigged up a mini strip of a "sail" to a mini "mast" and then the students actually could see and touch what we were talking about. To demonstrate the different effects of changing the position of jib cars, traveler, boom vang, and Cunningham, I climbed up on a chair and delivered my first tip: DO NOT go sailing wearing a little black anniversary party dress and high heels! But then I was able to stomp on the "sheets" and tug on the "halyard" and shimmy up the "mast"—Oh wait, no, there was no shimmying. But nearly.

I was a bit concerned about how I could possibly fill an hour and half with talking about sail trim, but the time flew by and the second session teacher arrived to shoo us onwards.

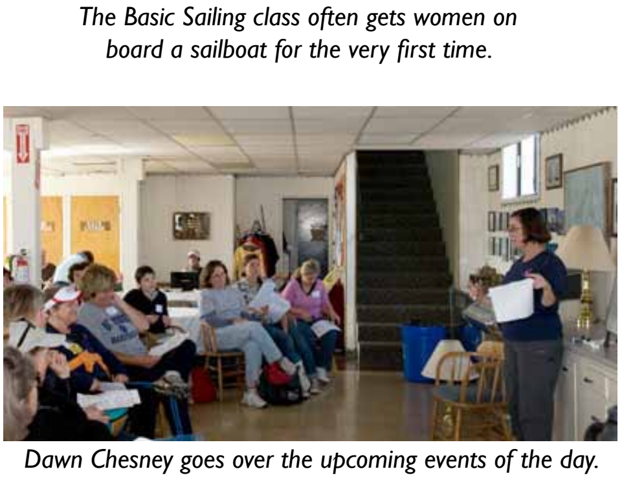
On Sunday, we had seven Santana 22s racing on the Estuary! Wow! A real race! And two boats with spinnakers. Spinnaker racing is always more fun, especially in the normally light winds of the Estuary. Aboard Bill Bridge's *Ahi*, we flew the spinnaker twice from its bag, which we had to creatively secure to the bow pulpit. (Bill: "Hmmmm. This should be interesting! We never hoist it from the bow.") The third time, we just hoisted it straight out of the cabin. Student **Tammy** announced that she didn't know how to steer using a tiller, so we all agreed that Tammy should take the helm. By the end of the third race, Tammy and the tiller had the beginnings of a beautiful friendship. Students **Suzie** and **Erica** handled the sheets, afterguys, twingers, halyards, traveler, topping lift, foreguy, and took turns on foredeck.

Dawn Chesney's boat, *Fast Company*, took the first two guns by seconds, which we put down to the fact that we were (a) slow to the start and (b) just practicing. By the third race we had ourselves organized, and we won by minutes and minutes. We observed what appeared to be either the mother of all spinnaker wraps or a spinnaker halyard malfunction aboard *Fast Company*, but we nonetheless glowed with the glory of our victory.

So much energy! Such enthusiasm! So much amazingly fabulous food from our own IYC galley! (Thanks to **Bethany Smith** and **Sandra Paz**!) So many people donating their time, efforts, skills, talents. It's what makes our annual Women's Sailing Seminar just a cut above. And, it's what makes IYC a special place.

It's our famous lunchtime raffle! And just look at the weather.

The Basic Sailing class often gets women on board a sailboat for the very first time.



Dawn Chesney goes over the upcoming events of the day.

Sunday racing! A beautiful day with a nice breeze on the Estuary offered fun and a great experience for all.

It's our IYC members volunteering their time and energy that make everything happen. Here's Nancy Hird and Joyce Brack helping everyone have a great time.

More on WSS

By Dawn Chesney

Between Saturday & Sunday we had 67 students attend, 18 instructors, 11 boats. The objective is for the students to do all of the hands on on the boat, instructors step in only for safety. Our biggest goal is to empower the women so they will continue to get on the water, hence our tag line "Capture the Power." And I'd say we did just that, the energy at IYC both Saturday and even more so Sunday is something you really feel.

There is always some on-the-spot juggling. We learned on Saturday that one of the loaned boats had its outboard motor stolen. We borrowed an engine from another boat only to learn it was a short shaft and we needed a long shaft. In the end we switched the crews and had another boat go on the water for the Crew Overboard class, since they needed an engine the whole time, and used the short shaft engine boat for spinnaker on the water since they only had to get to and from the dock. Sometimes you have to adapt quickly to changing circumstances (just like in sailing)!

And when I say crew overboard, I mean it—Vice Commodore **Kristen Soetebier** wore her wetsuit and dropped into the water unannounced. The students pulled her out with the Lifesling. (Thanks go to IYCer **Rich Ahlf** for some great pictures of the rescue!)

The sailing community was especially generous again this year with MANY sailing schools donating lessons for the raffle. In the end, we made sure every student won something! The food was fabulous, prepared by two of IYC's members; people were asking if we had it professionally catered.

Sunday the Catalina 36 *Interlude*, took two instructors and nine students cruising. Owner **Mike Joyce** even made them home-made biscuits and tea while they were sailing. They were supposed to be back by 5pm, but had such a good time they didn't return till 6:30! On Sunday we also had six Santana 22s compete in three races on the Estuary., enough to have both spinnaker and non-spinnaker divisions. Prizes for everyone back at IYC and more fabulous food. What a blast!

Crew Overboard! Vice Commodore Kristen Soetebier (for the second year in a row) gets hauled out of the Estuary. This training could save a life one day!

Everything about WSS could be summed up right here. Just a great picture. (Thank you Rich Ahlf!)

Galley Report

By Brendan McKenna, Galley Manager

We have had quite a time in the Galley in September and early October. The Friday Night Summer Series Races concluded with the usual post race barbeque on September 16th. I continued with our plan to provide better beef and pasta and salad. In addition to fresh (never frozen) first class burgers, the racers were treated to rib steaks sliced fresh from the side of boneless ribs. The salad featured additional "choose your own" ingredients of walnuts, mandarin oranges, mushrooms, olives other treats and shredded cheese. For the vegetarians I prepared a tray of fresh cooked 5-cheese penne pasta. The recipe called for sausage or some other meat; to keep the dish vegetarian I substituted diced tomatoes, fresh basil and sliced grilled pimentos. From the lack of leftovers I believe that it was well received.

My sous chef **Michael Hite** was in Mexico visiting his brother so my number one helper was **Carolyn**, my irreplaceable wife. She helped shop, set up the salad, kept me in line in the galley to make sure the pasta was almost on time. She also did a fine job preparing the burgers for the racers, members and other guests. I showed off and sliced the rib steaks and checked everyone's progress at the grill. With awards presented for the final race series and the whole season a good time was had by all.

With **Dave and Speranza** heading off for their trip to Australia and busy with their new boat, help was provided by **John New**.—a terrific separator of basil leaves from the stalks and stems, (that may have been the difference in the pasta!)—and VC Kristen Soetebier who sliced salad veggies and helped with setup. Kristen always makes a difference by helping out wherever and whenever assistance is needed. As usual, **Dawn Chesney** pitched for clean up after racing and seeing that she got something to the grill.

For the **September Membership Dinner** I featured mesquite seasoned tri-tip beef grilled to near perfection on the deck. One of the benefits of tri-tip (in addition to it's relatively reasonable price) is that the shape of the steaks require constant turning on the grill. This and the irregular shape of the steaks results in a finished product done by section to all tastes: rare, medium rare and medium well to well done. Oven roasted potatoes and eggplant, zucchini and squash on the grill rounded out the main menu. All the grilled and roasted vegetables and potatoes along with another fresh cooked and assembled mixed cheese and mostaccioli pasta in tomato sauce made the meal a delight for carnivores and vegetarians alike. Of course there was ice cream and coffee. Many lingered over tidbits, leftovers, coffee and ice cream for the fascinating discussion of sail making by our speaker, **Synthia Petroka**. The turnout was smaller than usual, but we had purchased and prepared accordingly. **David Ross, John New, Kristen Soetebier, Nancy Hird,** my regular helper **Michael Hite** and of course **Carolyn**, all helped out to make a terrific meal.

I will leave the discussion of all the galley goodies at the Women's Sailing Seminar to others, but once again I doff my toque to **Sandra Paz** and **Bethany Smith** for their fantastic hors d'ouvres on Saturday night. Not only did they do a great job of preparation and presentation, the galley was as clean as a bosun's whistle after their cooking concluded. The clean up crew of **Carolyn, Dawn, Kristen** and myself had only to put away purpose prepared goodies for Sunday and work in the left-overs that would still be good for Sunday into the fridge and clean a few serving dishes.

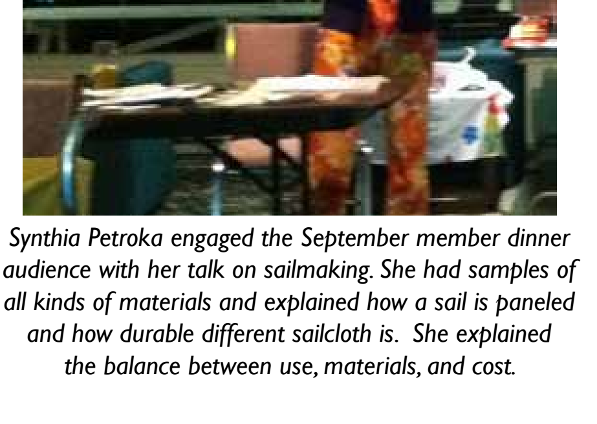
I would also like to compliment all of the Seminar attendees, members, guests, barkeeps and galley helpers for our most succesfull to date **recycling and compost effort**. The addition of a simple green can for compost next to the well known blue can for recyclables and the black can for trash seemed to get the message across to almost all. I also received many compliments for implementing more recycling at the Island Yacht Club. Look for the three can system to appear at the bar, in the downstairs lounge, upstairs inside and outside of the galley and on the deck. ***Every Day is Earth Day***. We should do our part. We have already moved to recyclable plates. As soon as we deplete the supply of plain plastic forks, knives and spoons we will move to recyclable utensils. When that occurs there will be very little to think about since almost all except recyclables and very little trash will simply go into the green can, (except of course when we are using metal cutlery).

That brings us to the **October 22 Membership Dinner**, and the watchword for this event is **Gemütlichkeit!** That's German for good food, good drink, good music and comraderie in service to the community. It's **Oktoberfest** and The Island Yacht Club needs to pat itself on the back and have a good time get together of hots, brats, beer and kraut. I'll be searching the Web and asking for Ideas as simple as where to we do I get good soft pretzels to recipes for sauerbraten and other German fall delicies. Most important to all is **kuchen**. That is a desert. I an a great chef d'barbeque, and it seems that I am developing a talent for baked pasta. But I am no baker—I need a volunteer for kuchen.

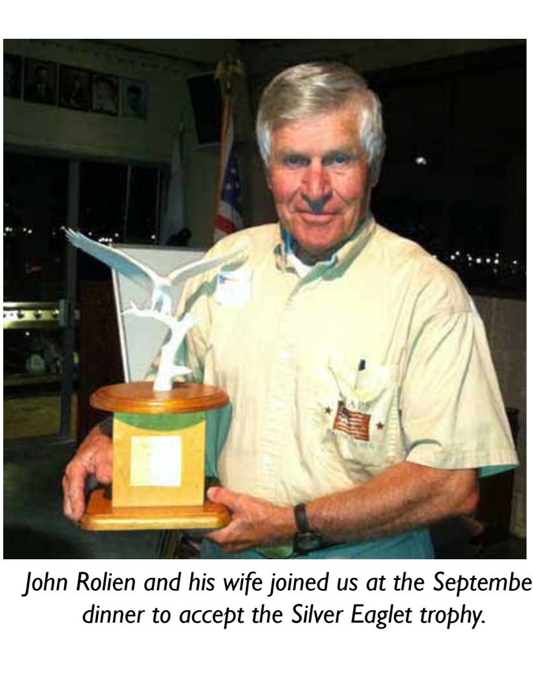
As to attire, your best foulies withe braces (suspenders) up top (or not) and the lower part of the pants zipped off will do very well as **lederhosen**. Beyond that, we are not quite within the octave of Halloween, but who cares. Come in costume if you like.

Remember the watchword is Gemütlichkeit ! Lets have a fun Oktoberfest before it gets cold. It's all in the umlaut.

Editor's note: the Board approved ONE FREE BEER on October 22 for anyone coming to the dinner in lederhosen!



Synthia Petroka engaged the September member dinner audience with her talk on sailmaking. She had samples of all kinds of materials and explained how a sail is paneled and how durable different sailcloth is. She explained the balance between use, materials, and cost.



John Rolien and his wife joined us at the September dinner to accept the Silver Eaglet trophy.

Angel Lights Countdown Benefit

From the Angel Island Association

Angel Island State Park is the largest natural island in the Bay Area. This historic park contains miles of hiking and biking trails, in addition to docks and moorings for the sailing community, attracting over100,000 visitors from around the world each year. It is a special place for anyone to enjoy the great outdoors and be inspired by nature. The island is recognized by the National Registry of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark.

Although Angel Island is an integral part of the Bay Area landscape, it has millions of dollars worth of deferred maintenance work, including 120 historic buildings threatened by inadequate funding, putting the Island's future in jeopardy.

Angel Island Association is the Cooperating Association supporting Angel Island State Park. It is a non-profit organization that partners with the state park and supports it by funding projects designed to create an awe-inspiring visitor experience, and creating a community devoted to preserving and enhancing the island's unique natural and cultural history. Each December, AIA hosts a fundraiser—The Countdown Benefit—encouraging private and corporate sponsors to light up the night sky. Beginning on the evening of the Benefit and throughout the month of December, the Angel Lights shine from the top of Angel Island.

The Benefit originated from a lone memorial light on Angel Island, and in recent years has become a collection of lights, creating a stunning beacon for all in the Bay Area to see. The Benefit this year will help keep all of the State Park's lights on and to support AIA's primary mission: to facilitate the preservation and restoration the Angel Island's habitat and natural resources.

The Countdown Benefit will be held on **December 1** at the **Corinthian Yacht Club** in Tiburon, CA. Ticket prices start at $125 and include food, drinks, live music, and a live auction hosted by **Doug McConnell** of Bay Area Backroads fame. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Lisa Eltinge at 415-341-3018 or **lisaeltinge@aol.com** For more information about Angel Island and the Countdown Benefit visit their website at **http://angelisland.org/angellights/**.

Angel Lights
Countdown Benefit 2011

2011 Racing Calendar

Nov 6: **Jack & Jill + One** Woman-Skippered triplehanded race on the Estuary
Nov 20: **Commodore's Cup** (whatever Dave dreams up)
Nov '11 thru Mar '12 - ***Island Days* Estuary Midwinters**, second Sundays of each month

Pirates in Paradise "Fun-Raiser" Coming Sunday October 16

This waterfront event happens 10AM to 5PM this coming Sunday at the Nob Hill shopping center, just west of the Fruitvale Bridge in Alameda. Lots of events for kids and families including just about every kind of paddle-powered craft you can think of. Sponsored by the Alameda Fire Department, the Alameda Police Department, Farmers Insurance, Alameda Dragon Flyers and Fast Imaging Center. Proceeds benefit the Alameda Education Foundation.

Get details at **http://alamedaeducationfoundation.org**

Support the PINK BOAT REGATTA!

By Lucie Mewes

Georgia, skippered by VC **Kristen Soetebier**, with Captain **Ben Mewes** and Navigator **Janet Frankel**, is competing in **The Pink Boat Regatta** October 23 at Corinthian Yacht Club.

Islanders can support us in raising funds for breast cancer research by "Buying a Buoy" online:

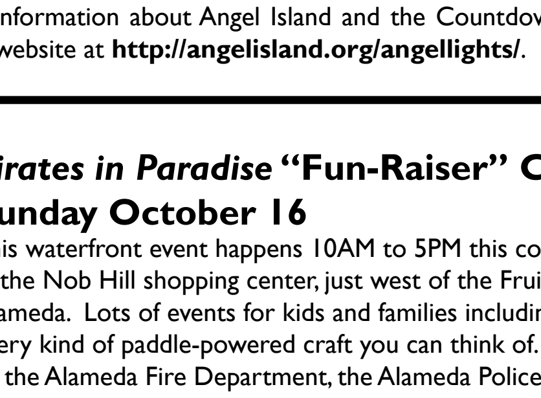
http://www.thepinkboat.org/Regatta/BuyABuoy.aspx

I will be On Deck at Corinthian during racing and for the party afterward.

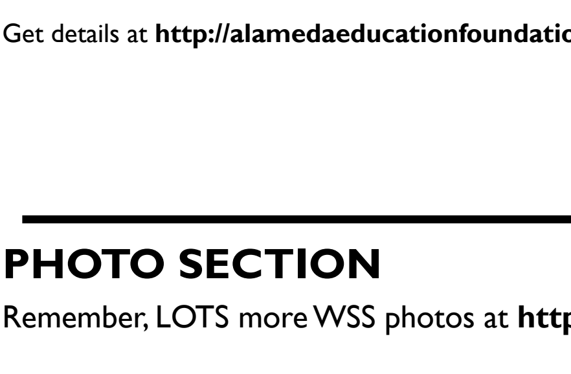
PHOTO SECTION

Remember, LOTS more WSS photos at **http://tinyurl.com/2011wssphotos** .

A few more Australia shots from Dave and Speranza's trip:



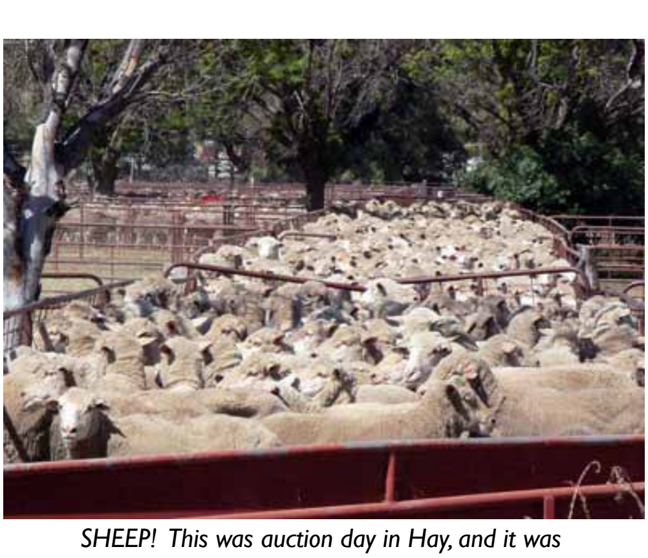
Dave at the Tatura Museum, a memorial to one of the British internment camps where WW2 German refugees (including his father) was held for 18 months.



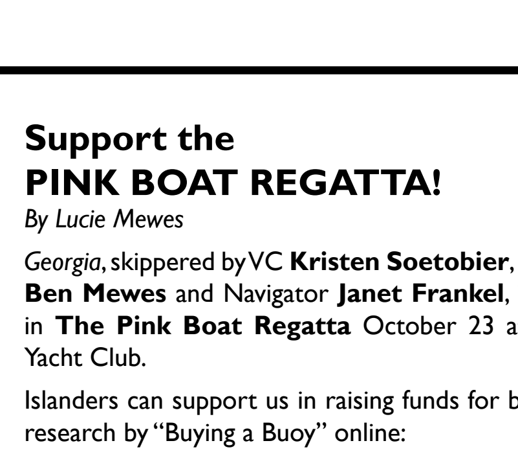
Yes, they are SO CUTE! Koalas sleep 16 hours or more a day up in their gum (eucalyptus) trees.

SHEEP! This was auction day in Hay, and it was a great one. Sheep went for around $250 each (some years, that number can be more like $5).

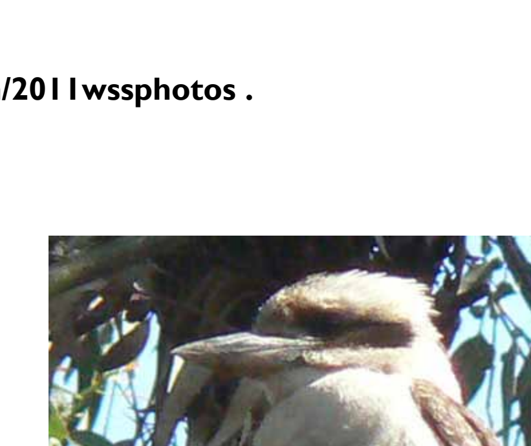
Speranza feeds a baby kangaroo in Mom's pouch at one of the many conservation parks in southeastern Australia.



The beautiful Mornington Yacht Club, southeast of Melbourne.



"Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree..."



Newhaven Yacht Squadron Vice Commodore Pauline Draper exchanges burgees with Dave.

It took a long zoom in, but here's a 'roo out in the open.

An open invitation from the Oakland Yacht Club:

OYC
Wednesday Night
Happy Hour!

A little mid-week break, this Fall

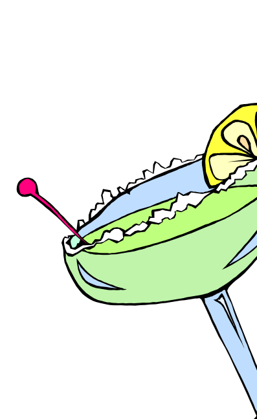
(October 5, 12, 19, 26 November 2, 9)**

Bar Opens at 5:30

Hey Yacht Club neighbors…c'mon over to OYC after work for a mid-week break!

Potluck snacks and dinner…bring something to share, or just come to enjoy!

Tunes + food and beverages + boating folks = Good Times



***If we have enough interest, we'll keep the bar night rolling through the winter!*