

Port Douglas Yacht Club Newsletter

Volume 3 October 2012 Issue 26

Ruff Red 2012 Spring Series winner

Spring Series Results: Ruff red (10), Jimmie Blacksmith (11), Ice (14), Magic (16), Ann Sea (23), Port FM Mais Oui (41)

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In what could be the first of a new format for the three seasonal series that comprise the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship the 2012 Spring Series was contested over five consecutive Saturdays using a 2:1:2:1:2 sequence to allocate the eight races over the five weekends. The format appears to be popular with skippers and crew and is planned for all three series in 2013. Taking full advantage of the quick succession of races Ruff Red raced to an early lead claiming three consecutive firsts in races 1, 2 and 3 that set the platform for their first ever series win. Despite the withdrawal of Jimmie Blacksmith from the final race Ruff Red secured a double two points coming second on corrected time in each of the final days races to secure their win. Skipper Greg Langan and his crew have emerged as regular contenders following the boats spell out of the water over the winter and with talk of a possible purchase of an even faster boat before next year 2013 could see even more serious action out on the water.



Race Reports:

Poseidon Sailaway Spring Series Race 3: Six yachts crossed the start line in a reasonable breeze for the windward beat to the top mark for the first of three port roundings. The fleet soon split into the regular pattern with Magic leading ahead of Ann Sea as the two duelled to fight off their nemesis of handicap corrected times. Magic again crossed the line first but settled for fourth on corrected time ahead of Ann Sea and Port FM Mais Oui. Ice took third just 43 seconds ahead of Magic with Jimmie Blacksmith in second only 34 seconds behind first placed Ruff Red.



Poseidon Sailaway Spring Series Race 6: In a steady 18 knot breeze five yachts beat towards the windward mark with Magic just managing to hold out Jimmie Blacksmith and Ann Sea to be first to round. Magic slowly began to build a lead as Jimmie Blacksmith and Ann Sea matched each other around the course closely followed by Ice and Ruff Red further afield.

With all five contenders still a chance to claim the Spring Series each and every crew member had to be on their game to achieve the best result. Magic crossed the line first ahead of Ann Sea as Jimmie Blacksmith regained lost ground to take third ahead of Ice and then Ruff Red.

Corrected times provided another very tight finish with Ann Sea just four seconds behind Magic who in turn was only twenty two seconds behind Ruff Red. Jimmie Blacksmith secured second but the win on the day went to Ice.

Jimmie Blacksmith (12) retained first overall and Ruff Red (17) and Magic (17) were locked in a tie for second ahead of Ice (22) and Ann Sea (24).

Poseidon Sailaway Spring Series Races 7: The final two races of the series also brought into play two crucial discards with each competitor able to discard their worst two results from the eight race series. With conditions again gusting over 20 knots five yachts crossed the start line each with a chance at claiming the series. Magic was the only boat that dared to fly their spinnaker in the testing conditions but as is often the case the stronger gusting wind got the better of a halyard shackle costing the team valuable time to recover. The set back did not stop them claiming an impressive twelfth consecutive line honours win for the windward leeward course. Ann Sea crossed second ahead of Ice, Jimmie Blacksmith and Ruff Red. Corrected times gave the win to Ice (57:54) ahead of Ruff Red (59:51), Jimmie Blacksmith (01:00:27), Magic (01:01:34) and Ann Sea (01:03:16).

Poseidon Sailaway Spring Series Races 8: With a possible series win in their sights Jimmie Blacksmith was unavailable for the final race and the remaining four yachts came to the start with the wind and swell having slightly eased. Ice surprised with a well timed start that almost put them ahead of the fleet but Magic again rounded the top mark first to continue on to another line honours win. With the fleet only seventeen minutes apart on elapsed time the handicap corrected times narrowed it down to just over nine minutes with Ice (55:18) securing a double on the day to put Ruff Red (01:00:40) in second, 28 seconds ahead of Magic (01:01:08) and Ann Sea (01:04:04).

The double win for Ice failed to clinch the series with Ruff Red (10) scoring two seconds to secure their first series win ahead of Jimmie Blacksmith (11), putting Ice (14) in third ahead of Magic (16), Ann Sea (23) and Port FM Mais Oui (41).

Race Reports:

Poseidon Sailaway Spring Series Race 4: Ruff Red was hoping to make it four Spring Series wins in a row in the first of the day's races but the gusty conditions proved too much for a jib sheet car and the crew were forced to abandon the start. This left Magic, Ann Sea, Jimmie Blacksmith and Ice to line up for the delayed start. Ice suffered a disastrous beginning and was never able to recover leaving her three rivals to fight it out for the points. Magic took line honours four minutes and twenty two seconds ahead of the fleet but handicap corrected times provided a much closer contest. Ann Sea (1:00:05) claimed third only twenty seven seconds behind Magic (59:38) with Jimmie Blacksmith (56:46) taking first to record her first win of the series.

Poseidon Sailaway Spring Series Race 5: With repairs completed Ruff Red joined the fleet for race 5, the second race of the popular double header race day. With the breeze gusting over 20 knots at times the five yachts settled into some serious duels between Ann Sea and Jimmie Blacksmith and Ice and Ruff Red. An unexpected wind shift on the third lap gave a huge advantage to those yachts on the windward beat enabling a single tack to take them right to the top mark. Magic crossed the line first but was again beaten into second on corrected time as Jimmie Blacksmith recorded a second win for the day. Ann Sea finished 3rd less than a minute behind Magic with Ruff Red 4th and Ice 5th. The win gave Jimmie Blacksmith (10) a three point lead in the series over Magic (13) and Ruff Red (14).



Hola de Amazonas! A further instalment in the adventures of the yacht clubs Three Gringos. Graham O'Dey and Maureen and Ron Shaw who are travelling through South and Central America.

After parting company while Graham went off to explore the Galapagos Islands and Ron and Maureen headed up the Amazon the Three Gringos are all together again. Graham back from the Galapagos and Ron and Mo from wandering through the Colombian highlands - high because of altitude that is! Mo reports; *"In one little town, we had an earthquake. We only felt a tremor and the floor of the shop we were in wobbled a bit, but Graham said he saw it on the news at Bogota and it was quite powerful, 7.8 on the scale. There was some damage, but luckily no one was hurt. Now we are in a little town on the border of Colombia, Peru and Brazil, and the Amazon River. From here we will catch a boat down river to Manaus and on to Belem on the coast. It's a few thousand miles. Everything is going great, except the time is running out faster. We have to be back in Los Angeles for 7th December, which will come round much sooner than we are ready for. Look forward to seeing you all soon Graham, Ron and Mo."*

The benefits of Yachting Australia

PDYC members that nominated to receive a Yachting Australia Silver Card should have received these in the mail by now. Your Yachting Australia Card is provided to you as a result of you having paid a subscription fee as part of your membership of an affiliated sailing or boating club. The Card provides you with access to numerous benefits at no extra cost to you.

Personal Accident Insurance cover provides certain benefits when an insured Cardholder (aged 5 to 85 years) is injured as a result of their participation in sailing, cruising, participating and officiating in races, race training or while on the premises of an affiliated yacht club.

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http://www.yachting.org.au/default.asp?Page=31142&MenuID=Member_Services/8/0/ for more details on these great benefits. If you have not received your YA card talk to Rich.

News from the manager's desk

"Sunset in the Park" is on November 3rd [see advertisement below] and we are hosting 10 bands from 1 till 11pm. There is a \$10.00 cover charge and we're expecting 300 plus people. We're all praying for some good weather!

The Club's Christmas party is coming up very quickly. It will be held on Saturday the 15th of December from midday. There will be entertainment, BBQ buffet and a drinks tab for all Members. Also on the agenda is the presentation of the 2012 Poseidon Sailaway Club Champion and the 2012 Closehaven Marina Trophy Series Champion.

Thanks for your overwhelming support so far this year. The wet season is fast approaching which we are all looking forward to. Make sure you come down and have a beer and keep Kristie, Charlotte and I company as we get a little lonely down here during the quiet Months.

Happy sailing - Richard



SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER
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The Top Yacht Handicap System With the Poseidon Sailaway Club Championship over for another year it's a good time to reflect on how our race results are determined using the performance based handicap system. If you look at a race result sheet you will see three columns, AHC, BCH and CHC. Herein lay all the contentious calculations. The **Allocated Handicap** (AHC) is the handicap used for the current race. This handicap is either the CHC calculated from the previous race in a series for an existing competitor or one that is allocated by the race officer/sailing committee to a new competitor or for a new series. The **Back Calculated Handicap** (BCH) is calculated by the software and is the handicap that each competitor would have sailed to in order that all competitors finished with the same corrected time. For BCH our reference time is 45% of the fleet. The **Calculated Handicap** (CHC) is calculated by the system as a result of performance in the current race using the Top Yacht Exponential Handicapping System. It is the handicap that will be used for the next race. For the calculation process, each BCH will be restricted to a maximum difference (higher or lower) from the current AHC of the race from which it is derived. This maximum is known as a clamp. The BCH with the clamps applied is called the CBCH. Provided that the Upper or Lower Limits are not exceeded, the BCH will be restricted by the clamps which are currently set at +/- 5% of the AHC to produce the CBCH. The **Exponential System** only uses data from the current race in calculating the handicap for the next race and the proportions of AHC and BCH used can be altered in Top Yacht. We use three quarters of AHC and one quarter of CBCH. So, in our series the AHC for a race is that set from the previous race. The AHC for the next race is then equal to 3/4 of the AHC of the current race plus 1/4 of CBCH of the current race and so forth for all future races. There are many variations to this theme including Weighted Running Averages, Fixed Averages, Trend Biased Averages, Boat Performance Ratios and Difference Biased Averaging. The sailing committee will be working on some of these alternatives in the coming months to tweak and tune our system and make sure that we get the best results possible in 2013.

Anchored fast with a tale to tell but a quick repossession doesn't hold too well



Most yachties have a tale to tell about how they've lost an anchor. Now it seems the Yacht Club also has a similar tale to tell as the large relic that sat outside the club entrance has been lost. Well, not so much lost as repossessed- in a covert and unannounced dawn raid that has left some members lost for answers. While ownership of the anchor for some remains in dispute at the end of the day we have lost a quaint piece of the character and culture of our club. An icon that had been with us for a number of years.

The plaque that was affixed to the anchor in 2010 was done so at the request of former commodore and Life Member Dr Dick and was read and admired by many a visitor that passed through our entranceway.

The inscription read: *"An anchor found upon a reef its presence there testimony to a tragedy unknown."*

It would seem that the recent history of the anchor may also be unknown. Perhaps anyone with a tale to tell regarding the old relic can share their story.

Left: Dr Dick and the lost anchor, pictured at the club Christmas Party, December 2010.

Doug Ryan's Race Tips:

Race starts: Part 2

Running the line and barging. The two things that commonly occur in club racing that should not occur. In both cases the windward boat must keep clear. In the old days you could give them a nudge but by then they had wrecked your start and a few others. So hail loudly, if they fail to respond, demand a penalty, if they don't comply protest them, that's why we have rules.

Over the line early.

Remember unless changed in the sailing instructions, if you are over the line early you only have to move back behind the line to start. You do not have to go around the ends of the line.

Timing is the thing with starts, so try a few starts before the race and time your runs. Practice slowing the boat down by luffing the sails. It is important however to keep some leeway on to maintain steerage, this is a great skill to have when luffing or slowing down when early for a start.

Rules also important on the start are Rule 14, avoiding contact, Rule 15 which says when you acquire right of way you must give the other boat room to keep clear and Rule 16.1, when a right of way boat changes course she shall give the other boat room to keep clear. All food for thought, good sailing. Doug



Good enough to tell the whole world!

This review of our wonderful club was posted recently on an online review site, a great testament to all.

"My husband & I got married in Port Douglas last month and had our Wedding Reception at the Port Douglas Yacht Club. We were MORE than thrilled with the services of the whole team who helped make this day the best of our lives!"

Simon in the kitchen was so helpful throughout the experience offering meal ideas to suit our guests and catered for those who required special dietary needs i.e. vegetarian, allergies & intolerances. - Nothing ever seemed to be a problem and he was always willing to help with any (in our case, many) questions we needed answers for. The food was amazing, with a great variety and all the guests went out of their way to tell us how delicious the food was, and how satisfied/full they felt!

The manager Rich was so relaxed and added a real calming "Port Douglas vibe" to the atmosphere making us feel really comfortable at the venue. He too was willing to help in any way he could and we felt he really looked after us throughout the whole experience. He had an answer for any question we asked and helped to make the place look amazing on the day! He really made us feel confident the event was in safe hands and everything was taken care of.

The extra staff on the night were so helpful, happy & polite and really added to the entire experience.

There is absolutely nothing we could fault about the Port Douglas Yacht Club & all those involved, we would highly recommend it to anyone looking to have a function i.e. Wedding, Birthday Celebration, Anniversary etc in Port Douglas."



Spotlight on Spinakkers

Hot news from the kitchen with Matt & Sime

It has been another reasonably busy month for us. Nothing like September, but still pretty constant. We have been lucky enough to cater for a couple of weddings and a Rotary Function from Cairns. One of the weddings was Janet Harvey and Andrew McKay. Janet is the daughter of John Morris. And after everything John has done for the Club and the great support he has been for us, it was a great honour for us that they chose the Yachty to have their reception. It was a lot of work trying to get ready for it, but thanks to our great staff, we were able to cook up some very special food. And everyone seemed to have a great time.

Happy sailing everyone!!!! Cheers, Simon and Matt.

New Members

Sue McEntegart

Richard Comyns

Ian Fincham

Mark & Margaret Aroa

Jenny & Andrew Downie

Perry & Dianne Reed

*Welcome to the
Yachty*

Management Committee News

Another busy committee meeting was held this month with a big agenda and a great deal of discussion with various reports tabled and motions passed. These included the formation of a sub-committee to fast track the club development plans and news of a positive meeting with Cairns Regional Council regarding an extension of our lease to accommodate improved pontoon facilities.

A successful meeting was held with Spinnakers to approve requested menu price changes and discuss issues that various members have raised. Lighting is planned for the existing boat ramp and safety issues were discussed for the hard stand.

A general workplace health and safety campaign is also to be undertaken to strengthen our position within the clubs WH&S obligations.

If you have any matter you'd like the committee to address you can talk to any of its members and have your say.

Congratulations Sailaway - a winning team in many ways

Club sponsor receives Ecotourism Australia 2012 GECKO Award

Congratulations to Steve and Katrina Edmondson and the team at Sailaway, winners of the National Eco Tourism Award at the 2012 Climate Action Tourism Awards at the Global Asia Pacific Eco Tourism Conference on 15th October.

Pictured right:
Sailaway crew
Brett, Daisy,
Steve and Rose



Club History with Henry Cotter

1992 – A letter to the Lands Department Part 1

This letter taken from our archives should be of interest to new and old members as it reminds us all of the struggle and the big effort of our past committees to get our Club House up and running. Many hours of negotiation was done before the building was started and we all now enjoy the fruits of their hard work. With the 20th anniversary of the Club House opening coming up next year it'd be great to have as many people there as we can to celebrate that occasion?

LANDS DEPARTMENT Re: Lease for proposed Yacht Club Building

Further to the visit by Mr Bill Eaton some months ago, to which a concrete slab is laid on the land at Port Douglas, upon which it is proposed to erect a building for the PDYC.

You will recall that this land was previously allocated to the Club by the Douglas Shire Council, as trustees for the Lands Department, to be leased at a peppercorn rental so long as the building remained and was used as a Yacht club.

As we understand the new arrangement, as detailed by Mr Eaton, our Club will be able to enjoy the privilege of a small rental. Mainly the Club will be able to enjoy a five year rent free period once the building is erected. Then allowing for the Club to become financial and established a fair and reasonable rental will be struck for a further five years. After which the Club will be in a position to furnish details of its trading and financial position so that an equitable rental could then be reached, fair to both parties.

At your request we now submit detailed plans for the proposed building which has been submitted to the Douglas Shire Council. These plans have been approved by the fire Department and building approval is expected within a short time.

We have received quotes for the building ranging from \$65k to \$75k from local builders. A meeting is planned with these builders in an effort to prune costs and save money. To this end we will construct our building to standard whilst being allowed to finish off the finer details such as painting and interior woodwork with the enthusiastic volunteer labour of Club members. As to the financial capacity of the Club we submit the following: To be continued.

Next month in Part 2 we look at how the letter went on to explain how much funding the club had and the expectations of the committee at that time as they pushed for the establishment of the club.

October WAGS

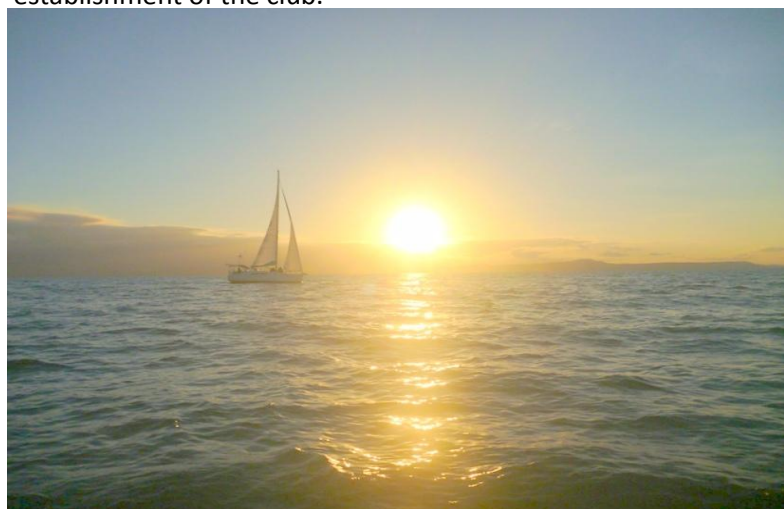
Wednesday October 3rd Three yachts poked their noses through the leads before a croc spotting cruise up Dickson Inlet. 25 – 30 knot winds and squally rain showers plagued the day and a handful of hopeful punters were lucky enough to get a ride on Sinabada, Miriama and Impact. Graham won the rum.

Wednesday October 10th Just how many boats were involved remains a mystery with both Ruff Red and Ann Sea excluded from the draw and Beringari and Ecstasy included to join Magic, Ice, Jimmie Blacksmith, Sky Walker and Sinabada with Graham and Judy on Sinabada winning some more rum.

Wednesday October 17th Seven yachts sailed in a steady 17 to 18 knots with a rolling sea and a few large waves. Ice, Magic, Sinabada, Jimmie Blacksmith, Ann Sea, Ruff Red and the welcome return of Tau Ceti. MC Richie "the Seer" Stapleton predicted a rum win for Magic and sure enough Magic won the rum!

Wednesday October 24th With a few yachts preparing for the annual trek into northern waters and a strong wind warning current only three boats ventured out.

In accordance with the sailing instructions the strong wind warning restricted the sailing area to Dickson Inlet and Magic, Ice and Ann Sea enjoyed the calmer waters. With only three yachts booking their tables for dinner the club was very busy as all the remaining tables were filled. Ann Sea collected the rum.



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Radio Port Douglas has confirmed ongoing support for PDYC in 2013

Station owner and Morning Show host (and self confessed sailing enthusiast) Michael Gabour has confirmed "I might even get out this year." The clubs J24 Port FM Mais Oui, partly named after the local FM broadcaster is always in the news after a race day for the listeners of Michael's morning show when a recap of the weekends racing can be heard. The station also actively promotes WAGS and with regular weather updates on behalf of Port Douglas Yacht Club throughout the day PDYC is never far from the listeners ears. Tune into FM 90.9 and support local business supporting your club.

Annual Coral Spawning - November or December?

It seems romance on the reef is a little unpredictable this year with dates for 2012 yet to be confirmed. The best guess at this stage is the first week of November but it might be the first week of December. Unfortunately for the little corals they have a bizarre mating sequence that nature has designed to ensure the best chance of survival for the species.

The sexual reproduction of a coral occurs as a mass event, lasting up to a week, and it only happens once a year. First up the water temperature needs to be around 27 degrees Celsius, which begins to occur mid to late spring. Then they have to account for the cycle of the moon. There must be minimal tidal movement to ensure maximum fertilization so coral spawning occurs three to five days after the full moon when the tides have the smallest range. The 2012 Full Moon dates are 30 October and 29 November so expect to see the spawning occur a few days after either of these dates. Of course the other ingredient is that it must be night time for reasons only known to the coral.

Sailing Committee News The sailing committee held its monthly meeting on Thursday 11th October. A close examination of the tides during the usual dates for the **Clipper Cup** at the end of May has revealed very low tides certain to prohibit the passage of many competitors through Dickson Inlet channel. The event has been brought forward a week to resolve this.

The 2013 sailing programme is under construction with all the dates and events locked in. Returning to the programme is the **Life Members Race to Fitzroy Island** to be held over the Easter weekend. The race from Port to Fitzroy will be commemorated with the winner receiving the inaugural **Dr Dick Memorial Trophy** in honour of Dr Richard Colahan, the Clubs first Life Member and former Commodore who passed away earlier this year.

Training seminars are scheduled for the coming months covering a wide range of subjects. If you've ever wanted to learn to splice or master those elusive knots be sure to attend the Marlinespike session on December 6th when Dan 'The Rope Man' and Pete 'The Rigger' will share their vast knowledge. Also in February Mal Richardson and Doug Ryan will be sharing their extensive knowledge of racing rules and sail trim.

Ever wondered how the clubs regular racing fraternity would go head to head in identical boats? Well 2013 may see the start of a **J24 match race series** utilising three J 24's with talks underway between PDYC and NQ Sailing to locate two of NQ Sailings Cairns based J's in Port for a few weeks to coincide with the Clipper Cup. The plan might be to run a series of weekday evening races on Dickson Inlet with teams and skippers competing against each other on a short course to truly test the skills of the competitors. More news will be available as it comes to hand so watch this space!



Fitzroy Island is 41 nautical miles from Port Douglas. On the western side of the island there is safe anchorage and a jetty in front of the islands resort. Day Visitors are welcome and well catered for by Foxy's Bar and Cafe, the Pacific Islands Trading Store, the Dive and Activities Centre and all the facilities of the adjacent National Park, including bush walks to the Lighthouse, the Summit and to the Secret Garden.

November Sailing

WAGS	Wednesday 7 th 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:25pm last light 6:48pm
WAGS	Wednesday 14 th 4:00pm onwards	Sunset: 6:29pm last light 6:51pm
WAGS	Wednesday 21 st 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:32pm last light 6:55pm
WAGS	Wednesday 28 th 4:00pm onwards	Sunset 6:36pm last light 7:00pm

Skippers and crew are reminded that all club organised events in accordance with Yachting Australia Special Regulations Part 1 (also recommended for cruising boats) are Category 6 events considered being close to the shoreline in protected waters and in daylight hours only. RRS YA SR Pt 1 Section 2.01.7.

Late 'arvo anchored at Low

The day trip vessels are long departed, the picturesque isle sighs in quiet relief.
As the easing breeze gently ripples the lagoon, sea birds return to nest, cooing on Woody.
Sea swell weakens, lapping waves lulling our yacht while we observe the hushed settling of day.

Waves at high watermark soothe the beach, crowds of busy footprints rinsed smoothly away.
Sun lowers to the cloud shrouded horizon, spotlight rays silhouette the Isle's ship like profile.
Hasty darkness rouses the lighthouse awakening, the protective beacon sweeps in slow rotations.

Westward Port Douglas beacon blinks responding, as southern skies subdue the city glow of Cairns.
To the east mangroves reflect off the rising moon, the shipping lane lights of passing cargo.
Low Isles jewel sleeps upon her sandy cay bed, refreshed natural beauty awaits the coming dawn.
By Trudy Erdmann

November
is
cruising
month.
Have safe
passage
all, and
tales true
and tall!



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Next issue: Scheduled for release October 27th all being well. **Thanks** to all the owners of material borrowed from the net.

Contributions welcome: If you want to submit anything for inclusion, even a regular article, email pdyc@portdouglasyachtclub.com.au

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