

ROGUE YACHT CLUB

Tell Tales

May 2021

Commodore's Log

By Dick Barbara



It has been a while since I have really had anything to say to you all and even now, I struggle with finding new information to share. We have been kind of stuck in a constant Covid/drought reality that hinders us as a yacht club from filling our upcoming sailing season with on-the-water events and even land-based social events. There are some positive and definitive news items that have aided your RYC board in making decisions regarding the scheduling of events.

Regarding Covid restrictions, the country and our state are easing some distancing and mask requirements that make it somewhat easier for us to schedule safe social

events. For instance, vaccinated folks can now meet safely in most indoor and outdoor settings without donning masks. This is great news for us since nearly all of our activities as sailors are held outdoors, such as happily sailing along with the mainsheet in our hands, gathering around picnic tables for an outdoor potluck, or sitting in a lounge chair on the beach with friends and family watching sailboats being pushed about by warm, steady winds.

It is now definitively clear that the drought situation in our region is unlikely to resolve in the next three to five months leaving our lakes as mere puddles compared to their past higher, useable water levels. Howard Prairie Lake now is at 10% full, which is down from its seasonal high of 11%, attained earlier this month. Emigrant Lake, another one of our favorite lakes in which to sail, is presently at 34% full. This is up 2% from early May. I would suspect that Emigrant's water level will probably top out soon, barring any major precipitation in the coming weeks. Usually, those soaking spring rains would have appeared by now easing drought concerns, but those rains never materialized during March and April leaving us "high and dry". So, the above regional drought realities make it somewhat easy for your RYC board to make decisions regarding our sailing season calendar and that is to find the closest bodies of water in which to launch our boats and our season.

As you might have already heard, Jackson County Parks has taken over the operation of the marina at Lost Creek Lake. Some of our members have already dropped their boats into Lost Creek Lake and are enjoying being back on the water. As a club, we are also planning most of our event to be based at or near Lost Creek's marina. Our first event is scheduled for June 12 on the beach near the marina. We plan to have an informal potluck and some off-the-beach sailing as well. A second social gathering is planned for June 24 somewhere here in the Rogue Valley, a "Thirsty Thursday" at a local winery or other watering hole. Stay tuned for more specific info. If the above-scheduled events go well in terms of Covid safety, we will plan more, similar events.

Also, many RYC members are planning to attend "away" regattas hosted by neighboring sailing or yacht clubs. Included in this issue of *Tell Tales* is a list of those regattas. Our first sailing road trip will be to the Whiskeytown Regatta near Redding, California on May 29 and 30. So far, three RYC boats will be heading south for this regatta.

Despite the barriers that keep us separated from a normal sailing season at Howard Prairie, we must adapt to current realities. Our ability to adapt this season will keep smiles on our faces and our boats in the water.

Away Regattas & Events

To aid in planning, here is a list of regattas and other events in the upcoming season hosted by neighboring clubs. Although we will do our best to keep this list updated, please check the sponsoring club's website or Regatta Network for the latest information, including cancellations.

- May 29-30: Memorial Weekend Regatta, Whiskeytown Sailing Club
- June 11-12: San Juan 21 Nationals, Klamath Yacht Club
- July 3-4: Firecracker Regatta (*tentative due to low water levels*), Klamath Yacht Club
- July 9-15: Salish 100, Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend, WA
- July 10-11: Memorial Day Regatta (*moved for Covid reasons*), Eugene Yacht Club
- July 17-18: Yale Lake Regatta, Willamette Sailing Club
- July 31-Aug. 1: Al Morris Regatta, Willamette Sailing Club
- August 7-8: Live on the Edge Multihull Race, Eugene Yacht Club
- August 28-29: Harvest Regatta, Eugene Yacht Club
- Sept. 4-5: Redwood Regatta, Humboldt Yacht Club