

Water Fronts for Feb. 11

The 2010 sailboat racing season begins in earnest Saturday when Pierpont Bay Yacht Club hosts the first race of the Spring Series.

The season began in early January, when 11 boats turned out for the first of three events in the Ventura Yacht Club regatta series. More than twice that many boats are expected Saturday for the offshore race hosted by PBYC.

At the skippers meeting, Richard and Paula Sharpe, new sponsors of the Ventura County High Point Championship series will present the 2009 perpetual trophy and take-home trophies. The 2009 champion was Tim Haapanen and his Catalina 27, Sisú. Second place was Paul Moore & Deke Klatt in Angry Hillbillies, a Zap 26. Third place was Bill Moore in Superstition, a Capri 25. Fourth was John Thawley & Gene Beville in XS, a Mull 30. Fifth was Rod Abbott in Funatic, a Choate 48.

The Sharpes are previous winners of the perpetual trophy as co-owners of the Olson 30, Perfect Balance. They are co-owners of Intelligent Weighing Technology, Inc. which serves the North American market with a complete range of force measurement and load monitoring technology, industrial and laboratory scales and balances, from 0.01 milligram to 275 tons. Of special note is the Mini Weigher plus that is ideal for weighing boats up to 5 tons.

The skippers meeting will be at PBYC at 8:30. Racing will begin at 11 a.m. in the vicinity of the Mandalay buoy, mid-way between Channel Islands and Ventura harbors.

Skippers of non-spinnaker boats will be required to obtain PHRF rating certificate by the last race of the series to be eligible for series prizes.

PBYC is the first local club to officially go on record requiring PHRF certificates this season for non-spinnaker boats. Ventura Yacht Club has also indicated it will require certificates for its major races later in the season.

"All boats racing under PHRF must have PHRF certificates or it is unfair to those skippers that have them," said Eric McClure, president of PHRF of Southern California. McClure said that it is a violation of the Racing Rules of Sailing to use PHRF handicaps for racing without actually having PHRF certificates.

"PHRF certificates can be obtained quickly," McClure said. "If a boat type is in our data base, our PHRF Fleet Secretary can get skippers certificates within one or two weeks of receipt of an application and their \$50 check." Actually it can happen much more quickly. Last year PHRF certificates were required for non-spinnaker boats competing in the Ventura Cup and several skippers were able to obtain them the week of the event.

Certificates can be obtained by visiting the PHRF web site at www.phrfsocal.org/howtojoin.

Championship

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The Ventura Power Squadron's next Public Boating Course will start on Feb. 16. The 10-week course will be on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Ventura Yacht Club, 1755 Spinnaker Drive at Ventura Harbor.

The course covers all of the basic elements to safe boating, including knots, boat handling, rules of the road, safe operation, weather, and US Coast Guard and California boating laws and regulations. The course is free. The cost for the printed materials and course plotting instruments is \$60 per person. Class size is limited to 50 persons, on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information contact Ashworth at 432-9732. For more information about the Squadron and its courses, visit the website at www.usps.org/ventura.

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County High Point Standings:

USA 3324, J-24, Ryan Cox, 5; Jaded, J-24, Deke Klatt, 4; Tortoise, J-24, Whisenhunt & Baum, 3; Commotion, J-24, Dave Witham, 2; Out Patient, Cal 29, Randy Alcorn, 2; R Escape 1, Blue J 1, Tunzagrunt 1.

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Upcoming sailboat races:

* Saturday, Feb. 13, PBYC Spring Series 1. This popular three race series is hosted by Pierpont Bay Yacht Club. The other races are on Feb. 27 and March 20. The skippers meeting for each race is at 8:30 a.m. and racing starts at 11 in the vicinity of the Mandalay buoy. All finishes will be in the Ventura Harbor entrance channel. Entry fee is \$90 for the series (\$80 for USSA members) or \$30 for individual races (\$25 for USSA members). For more information, contact Richard Countess at (818) 889-2669 or at Rcountess@aol.com.

** Saturday, Sunday, Feb. 20-21, SCYA Midwinter Regatta. Hosted by Channel Islands Yacht Club, this regatta will be for the J-24 class and for PHRF spinnaker and non-spinnaker boats. PHRF rating certificates will be required for boats entering PHRF classes. The skippers meeting will be at 8:30 on Saturday, Feb. 20. Racing will begin in the vicinity of the Mandalay buoy both days starting at noon. For more information, contact Race Chair Larry Golkin at (805) 403-9900.

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2010 ocean sailboat racing schedule:

Feb. 13, PBYC, Spring Series 1

Feb. 20-21, CIYC, SCYA Midwinters, PHRF & J-24. (Double points).

Feb. 27, PBYC, Spring Series 2

Feb. 28, PCYC, Racing Rules Seminar

March 13, AYC, St. Patrick's Day Race

March 14, PCYC, Regional Training Race

March 20, PBYC, Spring Series 3

(Fax your race announcements, results and other information to Stan Whisenhunt at 659-3058 or call him at 659-1464. His e-mail address is Swhisenhun@aol.com).