

Water Fronts for March 11

A group of ladies interested in sailing and racing have formed the Channel Islands Women's Sailing Association. Prime movers have been Jane Thomas and Terri Potts.

Thomas said the genesis of the organization literally started by accident.

She originally planned to crew for Tom Warden on his Islander 44, Mystic Flyer in Anacapa Yacht Club's Wet Wednesday Series last summer. Shortly before the series started, however, Warden stepped off another friend's boat and broke his ankle. Although Warden couldn't race, he offered his boat and within a few weeks Jane and a small group of novice and cruising sailors formed an all-women crew that entered nearly every Wet Wednesday and a few weekend races.

"We challenged ourselves more than we ever would have done if we had been sailing with men aboard," Jane said. "We have developed new abilities and interest in sailboat racing while enjoying the empowerment and camaraderie of our single-gender team. A long-time local woman sailor, Fern Ross, joined us for the Milt Ingram race and planted the seed for a potential Women's Sailing Association in the Channel Islands area."

The crew of Mystic Flyer, with help from Channel Islands Yacht Club Commodore Mary Foster, has created the Channel Islands Women's Sailing Association (CIWSA) to promote, support and encourage women sailors of all ages and levels of experience.

"Our aim," Thomas said, "is to bring all levels of lady sailors together for a variety of activities, networking, and education, such as presentations on boating safety, racing rules, navigation, or terminology; sponsorship and participation in local races; and scheduling of day sails and other on-the-water activities."

Thanks to Commodore Foster, CIYC has hosted initial meetings. Thomas said the new association hopes that other local clubs will host future meetings.

Ladies interested in the association may contact Thomas at sunblade@prodigy.net or Terri Potts teepotts@aol.com.

SOLID BOX:

Deke Klatt and Garrett Baum of Ventura Yacht Club traveled to Westlake last Sunday for the Olympic Gold Regatta, hosted by Westlake Yacht Club. There were Lasers, Capri 14.2s, FJ's, Capri 18s and Sabots but only Klatt and Baum were racing in the Laser class, so it turned into a three-race match racing event.

SOLID BOX:

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxillary will have a two-day sailing skills and seamanship course March 21 and 22. The classes will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days at the Coast Guard Recruiting Center, 4202 Victoria Avenue at Channel Islands Harbor. The fee is \$60 per person (or \$100 for two people), which includes a light lunch and the 2008 Coast Guard Sailing Skills and Seamanship book. For more information, contact Jeff Berry at 607-5235 or Neptune22@verizon.net or Bob McCord at 653-6020 or RLMcCord@sbcglobal.net.

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Upcoming sailboat races:

-- Saturday, March 13, AYC Saint Patrick's Day Race. This race will be followed by a corned beef and cabbage dinner. One crew member from each racing boat will be treated to a free dinner. The skippers meeting is at 8:30. Racing will begin at 11 a.m. in the vicinity of the Mandalay buoy. Entry fee is \$35. For more information, contact Gene Beville at 985-7921.

-- Sunday, March 14, Regional training race. Hosted by Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club, this event is for newcomers to racing or for experienced racers looking for practice. Entry fee is \$10. Skippers meeting is 9 a.m. For more information, contact Fred Richardson at 658-1645.

-- Saturday, March 20, PBYC Spring Series 3. This is the final race in the series hosted by Pierpont Bay Yacht Club. The skippers meeting is at 8:30 a.m. and racing starts at 11 in the vicinity of the Mandalay buoy. For more information, contact Richard Countess at (818) 889-2669 or at Rcountess@aol.com.

-- Saturday, March 27, McCune Memorial Race. Hosted by Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club, this is the first of three events in its Pacific Corinthian Cup series. Late registrations start at 8 a.m. The skippers meeting is at 8:30. For more information, contact Fred Richardson at 658-1645.

-- Saturday, April 3, Lady at the Helm Race, hosted by Channel Islands Yacht Club. The skippers meeting is 9 a.m. Racing begins at noon. All eligible boats must be entered and skippered by a woman. A special class will be scored for any entries with an all woman crew and/or any double-handed entries. For more information, contact Larry Golkin at 403-9900 or e-mail him at Larry@Golkinlaw.com.

SOLID BOX:

2010 ocean sailboat racing schedule:

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

March 14, PCYC, Regional Training Race

March 20, PBYC, Spring Series 3

March 27, PCYC, McCune Race, PacCorCup 1. (Double points)

April 3, CIYC, Lady at Helm

April 18, VYC, PHRF & J-24 Regatta Series 2.

(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).