

April 2007



..... [www.tritonyachtclub.org](http://www.tritonyachtclub.org) .....

## Calendar

**General Meeting**  
Friday, April 27th; 6:30 pm  
Vets Club, Eugene

**Women's/Novice Race**  
Thursday, May 3rd, 6:30 pm  
Richardson Park

**Big Brothers/Big Sisters**  
Saturday, May 12th, 12 pm  
Richardson Park

**SOCKS Regatta**  
Sat.- Sun., May 19-20th  
Seattle Yacht Club

**Memorial Day Regatta**  
Sat-Sun., May 26-27th,  
Fern Ridge - EYC

**General Meeting**  
Friday, May 25th, 6:30 pm  
Vets Club, Eugene

## 2006 Board Members

- Commodore:** Denise Murschel  
CMursch@aol.com
- Vice-Commodore:** Michelle Wood  
mmichellewood@gmail.com
- Past-Commodore:** Jeff Longmore  
jlongmore@hotmail.com
- Secretary:** Karen Martin  
riverchild2@hotmail.com
- Treasurer:** Jaime Davies  
jaimed1104@earthlink.net
- Race Chairs:** Mike Schwarze/Ted Walkup  
mschwarze@comcast.net
- Emerald Cup Chair:** Bill Schafer  
billsohana@comcast.net
- Newsletter:** Lyle Mayer  
guanoguy@comcast.net
- Web Master:** Ted Walkup  
twalkup@docutrakimaging.com



## Yarrrrrr All Fools If You Missed This Years All Fools Regatta! It was a Pirate Battle!

by Chris & Denise Murschel



Saturday, April 7th, the morning of the All Fools Regatta the weather was cloudy, rainy & windy. By the start of the regatta, the rain had let up, the clouds had mostly parted, and a brisk wind was blowing. Quite a few brave souls showed up for registration, and many were in Pirate attire. Smaller boats decided crewing on larger boats might be a good idea, so, five intrepid boats went out to do battle, Chiquita, Lunatique, the Open 5.70, and the Sea Explorers on a San Juan 21. Chris Thomas was on his S20 as race committee.

First, Chris's motor died, then his forestay broke. Undaunted he replaced it with the jib halyard and continued out to set up the course under main. The Open 5.70 zipped around the lake so fast they only sustained one hit from their own team mate. The sea explorers retired to safety after the wind gusts hit 22 knots. Lunatique and Chiquita crossed the gauntlet for many broad sides, with Lunatique taking most of the hits since they broke their net trying to rescue a wayward hat that had blown off one of the crew members on that zippy 5.70 Lunatique still managed to complete the course first, albeit not quite legally.

After the sea battle, everyone went back to the shelter for chili dogs and chips. Lunatique got the jester award for finishing first. Chiquita got the over all award for getting the most hits. Many other awards were handed out & all had a good time. The event was very fun for all who participated. A special thanks goes out to Chris Thomas for putting on a special event, and a unique All Fools Regatta.

Everyone present decided we'll have to do this again later this year when more boats can be out, on a not-quite- so -windy day, when the water and weather are warm. So watch the website and read your newsletter so you don't miss out on the fun, next time.

Thanks Chris, family, & volunteers!

Don't forget to mark you calendar  
**Emerald Cup Regatta – June 23-24th**  
See Web site for complete details:  
[www.tritonyachtclub.org](http://www.tritonyachtclub.org)



## Welcome to all New & Returning Members!!

The season has started a little slower than some of us would like. However, we are thankful to even have a lake at all. Some teams have their boats in the water and are shaking the cobwebs off. On my S20, I have two new crew members this year and we have more than cob webs to work out. Our plan is to enjoy the season and learn how to sail together.

We put the boat in early with the plan to race or sail only if the weather was good. We have been rewarded with two sunny Thursday evenings with light winds. I recommend everyone get their boats out and ready to go, even if they only plan to sail in good weather.

I encourage all sailors to come out and join us for any of the race nights on Wed. (Lido/Laser races) or Thursday series races. It is not as important to win as it is to have a good time. The race nights are good for seasoned veterans as well as beginners. I learn something new every time I sail around the course. Further, we have rescue boats and fellow sailors to help out in case anyone gets in trouble. In May, Tuesdays will be fun beer can racing. So join us any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday night.

If you haven't signed up yet for Race Rescue/ Race Committee training there is still time to do so. Please attend one of the dates, (Lyle please add dates, I asked Mike & Ted to e-mail you) even if it's just a refresher course for you. It will make your race duty night much more enjoyable if you know what your doing in all aspects, including using the race committee boats, and per-

forming a rescue.

Also, if you haven't already done so, please sign up for Big Brother/ Big Sister Day on Sat. May 12th, and take a child and their mentor out sailing. You and the kids will benefit more than you can believe. Contact Michelle Wood for more information.

And don't forget Sat. June 23 & 24 is Triton Yacht Club's Emerald Cup. This is how TYC can show their sailing spirit to other clubs around the country, as well as earn the money we need to continue to offer fun events like Jungle Cruise, Singlehand, Jack-n-Jill, Big Brother/ Big Sister, & others. Please plan on supporting our regatta by participating and volunteering. Thank you All.

See you on the water! *Commodore Denise.*

To: cmursch@aol.com

Subject: Rogue Commodores Challenge Cup

To Triton Yacht Clubs Commodore, Denise Murschel,

The Yaquina Bay Yacht Club challenges your yacht club to participate in the 1st Annual "ROGUE COMMODORES CHALLENGE CUP", to be held in August of this year, the date to be determined. Attached you will find the annual "ROGUE COMODORES CHALLENGE CUP" race rules. The prize will be the annual traveling "ROGUE COMMODORES CHALLENGE CUP" with the year, club and commodores name permanently engraved on the Cup. This will be a weekend of fun, food and heads up racing. Let me know ASAP

*Ted A. Thurman*

*Commodore, Yaquina Bay Yacht Club*

---

From: "Robert Ramstead" <piratesplundermall@hotmail.com>

To: <we-r-sailors@comcast.net>

**Subject: Pirates of the Caribbean III**

Yar, Mates....

I be birthed in the loving arms of the Cartenga Hilton....otherwise known as Morgan's cell....hmmmm. Yes, indeed, lad...we will be having a piratical opening for POTC 3 in Lebanon, Oregon. It will be spread over three days...

**Thursay...May 25...**Pirates make entrance to the village and take city hall. That night, celebrations will be leading up to a midnight showing of the film (the earliest possible time and date. A red carpet, search lights, and piratical announcer should be on hand to spur the crowd up a bit)

**Friday...May 26...**Pirates will be welcoming folks at the theater before the evening showing. During that day, they be busy in local businesses and schools.....spreadin the piratical way message and taken in the local booty.

**Saturday...May 27...**Pirates will take over the street outside the theater and conduct a full day of piratical mischief and mayhem. Rumor has it that thar be gypsy wenches in the region that be bestowin their charms upon the unwary, too. An informal "street fair" will be conducted with some battles. The affair will also travel inside before each of the four planned showings of the film. Certainly, we plans a bit of Hollywood for all that arrive. Outdoor/indoor music, merriment, fighting, and song will surely be the course of events.

Although rough seas might cause some course adjustment, we have been fortunate so far in the planning. The town and city counsel are giggling about the mayor being assaulted by a pirate or two....Yarrrrrrr!\

*Respectfully submitted....Captain Robert Cockroach Blair of the pirate vessel Relentless Resentment*



**F**or two weeks the sea had been as calm as glass and we had been drifting farther and farther from the coast. In that time we had come to realize that we'd probably never make it back to land. There were four of us floating in the center of all that emptiness, living and working aboard what appeared to be a caveman's idea of a houseboat. Our vessel was a raft made of nine massive balsa logs tied together with hemp rope and topped with a two-story bamboo hut, a 61-foot-long micro-city, complete with provisions and accoutrements. Our expedition had left Salango, Ecuador, three months before on an experimental voyage to Acapulco, Mexico. But our sails hung limp now, and the flat surface around us indicated that we had entered a place synonymous with doom, an area legendary for swallowing ships, a place we called "The Gyre."

Technically, a gyre is any body of water that orbits around a vortex. This particular one was a 600-mile-wide oceanic whirlpool located in the Doldrums near Panama. You could see it on a chart the little arrows indicating the direction of the current went around in a tight circle, like a dog chasing its own tail. Once inside it, you'd be trapped. It wasn't something to be underestimated. In 1955 a Czech named Eduard Ingris entered The Gyre aboard a raft and spent 47 days there without so much as a breath of wind. then he stepped off his sinking vessel and onto a rescue ship he noted that the calm showed no sign of abating. In 1967 another victim of The Gyre, a Spaniard named Vital Alsar, entered that hated place, and after 143 days, his raft also sank. This wasn't just the Doldrums-where a boat might spend a week or so and then escape, it was special, and if you were trapped there, drifting, with no wind to get under way, you'd never arrive at any shore. You would orbit forever in a place where the ocean does not end, and the world's great continents do not exist, where there is no welcoming shoreline and no hope of landing eventually. We were in a bad spot and we knew it.

During the nights we had extreme calms and a brilliant moon. There were no sounds of any kind. The Gyre lit up fantastically, like the reflection of a full moon on a field of freshly fallen snow. You had all the characteristics of night except that you could see perfectly. As the days passed, the water of The Gyre calmed even more, and now at night it was easy to see the moon, crisp and clear, shining on the face of the vast Pacific. Not knowing what was to come, we believed that this was as calm as the ocean, the atmosphere, indeed the world could get. How could any vast place become more still, more stopped than this? But in those early days of drifting there must have been some imperfections in the surface of the water, because more nights passed, and as they did the Gyre calmed and calmed until it settled at a state of perfection. Now it was no longer a calm ocean, nor lit brightly as if by snow, nor like a mirror. In its stiffness and in its perfection the surface of The Gyre reproduced an exact image of the moon and clouds above it. But it was something greater than a mirror image, something more incredible, more difficult to comprehend-indeed, something vastly more difficult to believe. I talked to one of my shipmates about this in passing and it was agreed among us that staring at ne Gyre

while on night watch was unhealthy and should be avoided. I think we both knew that it could cause madness because it seemed to make your mind run off into terror. Nevertheless all of us stared at it. During our night watch, while the other three slept inside the raft's little bamboo house, each one of us stood alone at the edge of the deck and stared. Standing in the brilliant, glaring moonlight, with no sounds to keep you company, nothing but a silent vacuum and the sound of your own respiration, of your own wispy breath drawing in and out, you stared at 30 square miles of ocean and saw every ridge and every contour and every shaded area of every puff of cumulus cloud above, and every scar and every mountain and every detail of every single crater on the moon's surface. And when you searched for imperfections in the water, for ripples, you became even more hypnotized by the precise image before you. In the surface of the water you saw a frozen thing, still, captured, a thing that did not move and did not ripple. You stared at the water and yet you couldn't see any water. You stood in silence for moment after ticking moment, looking out over what was once an ocean, and you saw instead the black-and-white image of a night sky superimposed on the water like a still photograph-an immense, glossy photograph of a tropical night - sharp in its reflection, complete, and perfectly focused.



Our type of raft was the invention of a civilization from Ecuador called the Mantefio. They had used these gigantic vessels to move trade goods up and down the South and Central American coast for hundreds of years before the arrival of the Spanish conquistadores. Archaeologists had proven conclusively that the Mantefio had made contact with the people of western Mexico, as far north as present day Acapulco, but since no raft had made the voyage in centuries, no one really understood what was involved in such a journey How long did it take? How difficult was it? Could the Mantefio have maintained a permanent sea route between the two regions? All of these were open questions until someone made an attempt in the modern day. And though I had started years before with a simple desire for adventure, I had slowly become obsessed with finding the answers.

*Excerpted without permission from "Voyage of the Manteno" by John Haslett*



# Triton Yacht Club

P.O. Box 366  
Eugene, OR 97440

www.tritonyachtclub.org

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested

**Next Meeting**  
**Friday, April 27th**  
**Vets Club, 15th & Willamette, Eugene**  
*don't miss*

- Beat the board and more race tactics
- Ron & Leanne's, & Mark Forests Camellia Cup adventure . . .
- Maybe a preparation for sailing at Newport for Loyalty Days - Lots of us can tell stories about those days.

## Triton Yacht Club Membership Form

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work/Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your crew position \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal       New Member

Boat type: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sail number: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests:  Racing    Cruising    Social    Other \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) would prefer volunteer duties as follows:

- Race Committee    Race/Rescue    "Fun" Races    Social Events  
 Other (specify particular events or dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Save the postage, I can download the newsletter from the web.

### Membership Fees:

- New Members (includes \$40 initiation fee) . . . . . \$80.00
- Family or Individual 1 year renewal . . . . . \$50.00  
(\$10 discount if paid before March 1st)
- Racing Fee\* . . . . . \$15.00
- Dual Membership (EYC members) . . . . . \$40.00

**Total Dues Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Pay Race fee if you race, and **do not** belong to Eugene Yacht Club

Make checks payable to: Triton Yacht Club

Mail to: TYC  
P.O. Box 366  
Eugene, OR 97440

-----

The Triton Yacht Club is a Casual Community of Sailors Sharing Friendship, the Corinthian Spirit, and providing Racing and Non-racing Activities. Anyone and Everyone is Welcome! Visit with us and see for yourself. Meetings are held the last Friday of each month, at 7pm at the Veteran Club on Willamette Street in Eugene. Board Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Call a board member for roving meeting locations. Be sure and check the newsletter for information about meetings and events at [www.tritonyachtclub.org](http://www.tritonyachtclub.org)