



# Islander36 NEWS

February 2008 / Volume 1  
www.Islander36.org

## Save These Dates!

**Spring Meeting, Lunch, and Lines and Splicing Clinic Saturday, March 15**

(details on page 7)

**Clip and Save 2008 Racing and Cruising Calendars**

see pages 5 and 7

Watch for all Upcoming Events and make Reservations at [www.Islander 36.org](http://www.Islander 36.org)



Illustration of delamination repair when installing new Beckson opening ports on Rick and Sandy Van Mell's *Vanishing Animal*

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## Just Around the Corner - Spring!

### Planning Your 2008 Retrofit and Maintenance Projects

It's coming soon - the 2008 sailing season. Also waiting around the corner are those boat retrofit and maintenance projects on your to do list. Don't despair - you are a member of the Islander 36 Association and there is a wealth of knowledge and experience that comes along with your membership.

Say you have decided it is time to do something about those leaky opening ports and you are willing to invest a little sweat equity in the project. But how to get started? You can always post any questions to the I-36 membership by addressing an email to [Islander36\\_list@Islander36.org](mailto:Islander36_list@Islander36.org). You will no doubt receive responses with great information, pictures, encouragement, and even offers to help out. Maybe you even remember reading those emails and now cannot find them in your mailbox.

But did you know that the [Islander36.org](http://Islander36.org) Web site has a boat systems and maintenance area where you can find those email threads archived in tidy order with the very pictures that slowed your email down to a crawl? Webmaster **Rick Van Mell** has done a masterful job of organizing the collective wisdom and experiences of your fellow I-36 members who have gone before you on that project you are planning.

Back to those leaky ports, just click on the I-36 Maintenance/Systems Menu link under the *Schedules, Racing, and Goodies* heading on the home page. There you will find a list of major systems or boat areas. Place your cursor over **Cabin Systems** and a submenu pops up with more specific choices. Select **Opening Ports #2** and find a great pictorial procedure on how to replace Beckson ports.

Hull Systems  
Propulsion Systems  
Deck Systems  
**Cabin Systems**  
Bilge & Holding Tank  
Mast, Boom & Rigging  
Vangs / Control Lines  
Steering Systems  
Electrical Systems  
HVAC Systems  
Galley Systems  
Instruments  
Computers / GPS  
Owner's Projects  
Spinnaker Gear  
Maintenance Potpourri  
Funny Stuff

Fixed Windows  
Opening Ports  
Opening Ports # 2  
Window Curtains  
Headliner Replacement  
Zippers  
Stbd. Upper Bunk  
Cabin Sole Project

Our Association benefits from the collective participation and sharing of information among our members. As you go about your Spring retrofit and maintenance project this year consider taking pictures and writing up your experience to share with the whole membership. Send that information to Rick at: [vanmells@ix.netcom.com](mailto:vanmells@ix.netcom.com).

And to all of you who have already shared - thanks a million!



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# Commodore's Corner

*From Ron Damsen, Commodore*

The countdown has begun. We are just a month away from the start of the Islander 36 Association 2008 season. It all starts with the Spring Meeting at the San Francisco Yacht Club, on March 15. Our guest speakers at this year's meeting will be the **Chris and Kelley Mellor**. They are former Islander 36 owners who put workaday life on hold and along with daughter **Claire**, cruised for 2 years to Mexico, the South Pacific, and finally New Zealand. They have a great story to tell with some beautiful pictures.

Between the Race and Cruise schedules, there is an excuse to be out on your Islander sailing on San Francisco Bay almost every weekend! Highlights of the Cruise schedule include two blue water offshore cruises, a trip up the Napa River to **Tim and Rhonda Shea**'s home for the Fourth of July, a tailgate dock party before a San Francisco Giants game, and the second annual All Islander Rendezvous in Alameda.

The Racing season kicks off with the Vallejo race the weekend of May 3-4. This has to be the most popular race on the Bay, as evidenced by the hundreds of boats that participate every year. Please visit the Islander 36 Web site for all the details about this year's racing and cruising.

Now is the time to make a list of all the nagging little problems

on your boat that you "meant to get to" last year. My list includes a pesky shifting cable that works better in reverse than forward, replacing spreader light wiring that looks like it came from some discarded appliance, and improving the snubber setup for my anchor chain. I guess it is time to get to work!

*Ron Damsen*  
Commodore

## *Lines and Splicing Clinic at the Spring Meeting!*

We are delighted to have been able to line up **Barrett Linn**, Svendsen's Rig Shop Manager, to conduct a Lines and Splicing Clinic on Saturday morning of our Spring Meeting, March 15th at San Francisco Yacht Club. The time slot is 10:00 to 11:30 am.

Barrett will start with an overview on lines and options that are appropriate for an Islander 36, in both cruising and racing modes. Then he will demonstrate a typical double-braid eyesplice that might be used for sheets or halyards, then a 3-strand splice that would be good for setting up dock lines, dinghy painters or similar applications. He will wrap up with suggestions on how people can take their own measurements and either order from the Rig Shop, or buy materials at the Svendsen's Islander Shopping Night on April 26th.

He will have splicing kits available for purchase too, and, if time permits, help a few people practice on their own.

# Web Pages Bashed!

*The Hits Keep Coming*

by Rick Van Mell

A year ago at the 2006 Fall Meeting, we were delighted that our Islander36.org web site had gotten just over 1 million hits for the year. Well there's sure been some bashing going on! In 2007 the count is 3,122, 399 hits and still counting for the rest of November, 2007.

Chalk it up to our great members participating in races and cruises and taking their digitals along. Keep it up - somebody out there sure likes us. We now have 284 pages on the web site, with 10,843 pictures to peep at. What with the little thumbnails and the tiny html shell to display the bigger pictures, we have 25,640 files on the site.

Each of three months in 2007 had over 300K hits: September with 385,108; July with 343,125; and October with

336,523. Our biggest single day of the year for hits was September 25th with 37,151 hits. That's just after the All Islander page was posted and announced to our members. For September, there were 440,959 page views, and a whopping 2,534,153 "files" viewed - those count all images big, small and logos.

While the vast majority of our hits come from various US sources, our Islander web pages pop up on hits from around the world. Australia accounted for 3% of our September hits, Canada about 1%, and countries with more than 200 hits included, Argentina, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, France, Mexico, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Portugal, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Brazil & Poland. Just missing the cut off were Indonesia and

Bulgaria!!

And how did people find our site? Most people have a link and go directly. But some people use search strings and could get a hit on any of the 36 words in our meta tag. The way most common single search string was "islander 36" with 242 hits - obviously a tiny fraction of our 385,108 hits for the month. Ten of the top twelve search strings had "islander" in them. But (ready for this) the #10 search string (with 12 hits) was "betsy fowler"! And if you think that's funny, the #2 search string (with 68 hits) was "flower child". If you think that couldn't be us, go to the 2003 Bay To Breakers page and look for a picture with that caption: [www.Islander36.org/btob03.html](http://www.Islander36.org/btob03.html). When you stop laughing, we'll see you later.

## New Members Welcomed

*The Islander 36 Association Family Grows*

by Bob Knickerbocker

We have had a busy January processing membership renewals. Through the 30th we have received 130 renewals, 3 complete new members applications, and 6 incomplete new member applications. The new members are:

**Michael and Mauri Anderson** from Davis, California  
sailing on *Maggio* out of the Richmond Marina,

**Ken and Francie Bushee** from Danby, Vermont  
sailing on *Release* out of Shelburne Bay,

**Captain Zen and Chie French** from Concord, California  
sailing on *Zen* out of the Martinez Marina, and

**Joseph Acquaviva and Amy Loughridge** from Edmonds, Oklahoma  
sailing on *Island Fever* out of Ceder Mills Marina.

Welcome to all! For all you San Francisco Bay sailors be sure to look for and make welcome *Maggio* and *Zen* when you see them sailing out on the Bay.

*Bob*

- *BAADS Joins I-36 Association*
  - The Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors ([www.BAADS.org](http://www.BAADS.org)) added an *Islander 36, Orion*, formerly owned by Fred Freund to their fleet of 3 keel boats. She is being retrofitted to expand overnight and coastal cruising opportunities for their membership.
  - We are delighted to welcome BAADS to our I-36 family.
- 
- BAADS docks at Pier 40 in San Francisco

# Nautical Notes

*by Skipper Wall*

A Note before I get to the Notes: If you like Patrick O'Brien and Alexander Kent novels, I want to introduce you to another author who writes about the Royal Navy and the Napoleonic era. Dudley Pope has written an 18 book series of Lt. Ramage as he moves up the ranks. I think this series is as good as the O'Brien and Kent books. The front cover painting on each book wraps around to the back and are excellent portrayals of the square rigged fighting ships of the time. If possible read them in order. I think you will enjoy them. Now to the Notes!

MAYDAY

We all know why we use this word on the VHF. It comes from the French word "m'aidez", meaning help me, and is pronounced "mayday".

AGROUND

Something we have all done, particularly those who have been in the Sacramento River Delta. Old English \* "on", preposition + Middle English/Old English \* "grund" \*, noun, bottom, ground. Said of a vessel when she is resting on the bottom, by purpose or by accident.

~ Skipper

# Cool Tips and Tricks

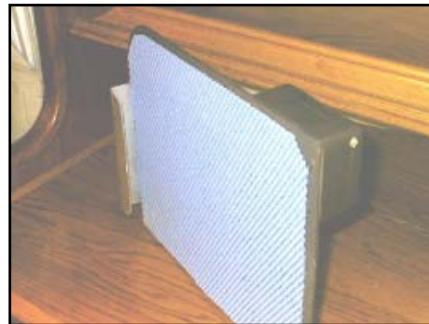
## *Browsing the I-36 Web Site Maintenance/Systems Menu Link*

Find this gem with more information on mast step repair by selecting Mast & Mast Step from the *Mast, Boom, and Rigging* area. Filed by Mike Reed from *Islander* on 2/3/08:

*"While working on the mast, I decided to make the halyards internal. Much to my surprise when getting the mast down, I found foam rubber blocking my efforts to snake wire and halyards through the mast. Evidently, the foam had been strung on cord and pulled through the mast to keep the wires from slapping. After removing the foam, I tired all my wires together with large sized wire ties rotating them as I went. I did not snip off the ends before pulling the wires through. This "wire centipede" has done an*

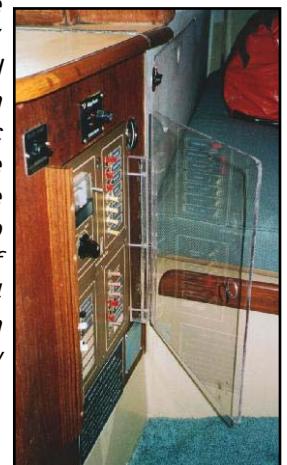


- More detailed instructions are included for this project on the *Computers/GPS Mast, Boom, and Halyards* area by choosing GPS Nav Station
- Shelf. Filed by Jim Joubert of Mon Ami in December 2003:
  - 
  -
- "Here's a way to mount your laptop on internal. Much the navigation station without drilling any holes. While only secured on one rubber blocking end, the tray is actually quite secure.
- I believe the pictures are pretty self explanatory, but if you need more detail let me know."



- Choose the Switch Panel Cover from the *Electrical Systems* area for this great idea:
  - Don Henderson on *Kindred Spirits* fixed up this handy rig to protect his switch panel.
  - 
  - “Our quarter berth gets used! Not just for “storage”, but for “bunking.” The difficulty has been that access to the quarter berth inevitably results in the circuit breakers being turned off (or on) as people get in and out.

- Our solution is this Lexan cover, stepped out about 1 & 1/4 inches from the panel surface. It is hinged on the aft side with "plastic" spring loaded hinges, with magnetic catches on the forward side matching up to a strip of 1/2 x 1 & 1/4 inch teak with plugged screw holes."





# Racing Notes

*From Michele Williams, Fleet Captain*

Hello Skippers,

I'm hoping you are looking forward to the 2008 season as much as I am. Here's the scoop for right now - you'll have to come to the Spring Meeting for more information. Regarding the issues and possible changes that came up at the end of last season - all things stay the same. I did not receive enough feedback to bring any proposals for change before the board. If those issues are still a concern, you should feel free to talk to each other throughout this season and, if need be, we'll re-visit them.

The dates listed below are all the possible dates for both the standard season races and a standalone group of fun races. We won't be having a Casual Classic Series this year, but most of these fun races are part of the YRA "Party Circuit" so we'll just tack on a few of our own party races. Anna Stewart and I are also working on a date or two where we use a local cruise-in as a possible fun race. We'll also be organizing a fun race or two at the All Islander Rendezvous in September. I think we've planned out a little something for everyone.

Our Sail Trim Clinic this year will be on April 27th at the Encinal Yacht Club. It is in conjunction with the Encinal cruise-in so here's your opportunity to get the best of both worlds. Cruise-in on Saturday and enjoy the camaraderie of other skippers while you take advantage of the great deals at the Svendsen's Discount Night. Then stick around for a great Sunday morning which will include brunch, a talk and dockside discussion with Kame Richards from Pineapple Sails, and concludes with some practice starts and possible short course racing. It should be a weekend to whet your appetite for the upcoming season!

Reserve these dates on your 2008 calendar and come to the Spring Meeting to find out the details!

*~Michele*

## Clip and Save 2008 Islander 36 Racing Calendar *Season Championship Series*

March 15	Lines and Splicing Clinic
April 27	Sail Trim Clinic - Encinal YC - Kame Richards, Guest Speaker
May 3	The Great Vallejo Race 1
May 4	The Great Vallejo Race 2
May 17	OCDA Spring 1 - City Front
May 31	OCDA Spring 2 - Berkeley Circle
June 21	South Bay - Summer Sailstice - Party at Treasure Island!
June 26	2nd Half Opener Race 1 - long course
June 27	2nd Half Opener Race 2 - short course
Aug 9	OCDA Fall 1 - Richmond long course
Aug 24	OCDA Fall 2 - Knox
Sept 6	OCDA Fall 3 - Island Tour
Sept 27	Season Closer Race 1 - Knox/Bonita
Sept 28	Season Closer Race 2 - Alcatraz and Angel Island
Sept 13	All Islanders Rendezvous - fun race
Oct 4	Nationals Day 1 - Golden Gate YC - Party after!
Oct 5	Nationals Day 2 - Golden Gate YC
Oct 18	Champion of Champions - 3 races for Season Champion Winner
Check the Islander 36 web site at <a href="http://www.Islander36.org">www.Islander36.org</a> prior to special events and parties for details, further information, and sign ups.	

### The Man to See

If you are racing this year remember that you will need a measurement certificate. The Islander 36 Measurer is Kris Youngberg. He prefers to be contacted by phone at 415-828-1833 to schedule your measurement.



Kris speaks at the 2007 Annual Meeting



At the 2007 Sail Trim Clinic, guest speaker Michael Whitfield demonstrates how to check if the mast is centered in the boat and how to check mast rake.

# Around the Island of Alameda

*First Cruise of 2008*

*Excerpted from the Islander 36 Web site*

It's a New Year's Day tradition on the San Francisco Bay, circumnavigating the island of Alameda by boat. Four of the yacht clubs that circle the Island host the floating party with special food and beverages like Aeolian YC's chili and Ramos Fizzes. The participating sailors enjoy the special pleasures of waving to the motorists waiting for boats to pass under one of the 3 draw bridges, meeting and greeting sailing friends at each stop, and starting the New Year with a sail.

As with all things sailing the event is governed by the weather and the tide. On January 1, 2008 the day was clear and sunny. Low tide with charted water depths of 2-4 feet at the south and west ends of the island was at 1330, presenting a timing challenge for navigating an Islander 36. (Read about the origins of AGROUND in Skipper's Nautical Notes on page 4.)

After cooking breakfast for the I-36 crowd circumnavigating Alameda this year, skipper **John Melton** set sail on *Freedom Won* from Encinal YC with **Corky** and **Anna Stewart** from *Brigid* and **Dan Knox** and two of his crew from *Luna Sea*. **Nanci Melton** and **Smokey** and **Laurie Stover** from *Evanescence* land cruised by car and Encinal YC Commodore **Charles Hodgkins** and **Kathryn** from *Mischief* circumnavigated the Island on the club's shallow draft whaler.

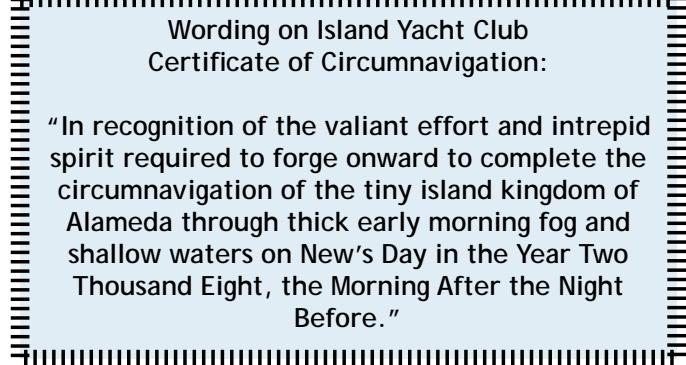
*Freedom Won* successfully made it to Aeolian but got caught in the low tide mud, so the crew joined the land cruisers for visits to Ballena Bay for drinks and to Island YC for fabulous black eyed peas with ham hocks, prepared by Corky Stewart. Any good Southerner will tell you that eating that dish on New Year's Day is required for a healthy and wealthy year. Island YC presented the skipper and crew with a prized circumnavigation certificate, mode of transportation not an issue. After the tide floated *Freedom Won* again, the crew sailed her back to home base, offering assistance to a Santana 22 in distress along the way. A fine adventurous day enjoyed by all. Plan on joining the fun next year - weather and tide permitting.



Smokey and Laurie Stover from *Evanescence*, John Melton, skipper of *Freedom Won*, and Dan Knox and crew from *Luna Sea* receive the coveted Certificate of Circumnavigation



*Freedom Won* aground at Ballena Bay



Dan Knox enjoys the trip around Alameda



Rescue of the Santana 22



# Cruising Notes

From Anna Stewart, Cruising Chair

Hey Cruisers!

We have a great cruising season planned! Clip out the Cruising Calendar below and put it on the fridge so you don't miss a single cruising event this year. We kick off the year at our Spring meeting with the story of a big sailing dream come true for **Chris, Kelley Montana, and Claire Mellor**. Former I-36 owners, they set sail on *Sensei*, a Norseman 447 center cockpit cutter for a two year cruise of the South Pacific from San Francisco to New Zealand. We have been following their adventure online at [www.mellorsatsea/blogharbor.com](http://www.mellorsatsea/blogharbor.com) where you can find blog entries by all 3 of the Mellors along with pictures from far away paradises. See you at the meeting!

Anna



Of the 125 skippers sailing in the 2005 Ha-Ha, 3 made it to New Zealand including Chris Mellor, far right.

Check out reprints of Claire's blog in the Cruising Kids Corner of the May 2006 and February 2007 newsletters posted on the I-36 Web site.

## Spring Meeting, Lunch, and Lines and Splicing Clinic!

Don't miss the 2008 Spring meeting of the Islander 36 Association. It's a great opportunity to learn about the new racing and cruising season, catch up with friends, enjoy an interesting presentation, and a bonus this year - attend a Lines and Splicing clinic! This event books up fast so reserve early!

*When:*

Saturday, March 15  
10:00 - Lines and Splicing clinic  
11:30 - Attitude Adjustment  
12:00 - Lunch  
13:15 - Program

*Presentation:*

Chris, Kelley Montana, and Claire Mellor share their two year South Pacific cruising adventure.

*Where:*

Cove House at the San Francisco YC Belvedere

*Menu Choices:*

\$ TBD for beef, chicken, and possibly fish choice.  
\$3 donation for wine at table

*Docking:*

\$1/foot docking fee

*Reservations:*

Go to [www.Islander36.org](http://www.Islander36.org), then click on Upcoming Events to make reservations.



*Sensei* in her element in Las Hadas

### Clip and Save 2008 Islander 36 Cruising Calendar

March 15-16	Spring Meeting - San Francisco Yacht Club
April 27	Sail Trim Clinic - Encinal YC
April 26-27	Encinal Yacht Club - Svendsen's Discount Shopping Night
May 24-26	Offshore sail to Drakes Bay and the Farallon Islands
June 14-15	South Beach Yacht Club & Baseball Game (A's vs. Giants)
July 4-6	Napa Cruise to the Shea's
Aug 9-10	To Be Determined (but it will be good!)
Aug 30-Sept 1	Labor Day Cruise to Half Moon Bay
Sept 12-14	All Islanders Rendezvous - The Estuary - OYC & EYC
Oct 11-12	Treasure Island Yacht Club at Clipper Cove
Nov 1	Fall Meeting and Awards - Oakland Yacht Club
Check the Islander 36 web site's Upcoming Events at <a href="http://www.Islander36.org">www.Islander36.org</a> a few weeks prior to each cruise date for details, further information, and sign ups.	

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## Spring Newsletter, 2008 Islander 36 Association of San Francisco Bay

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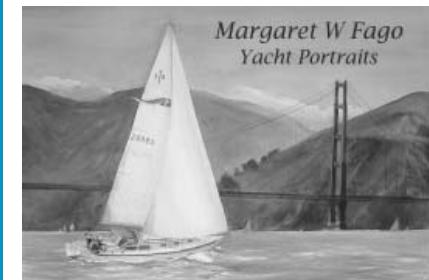
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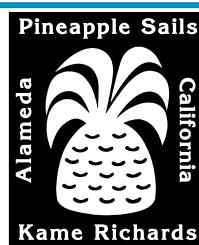
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