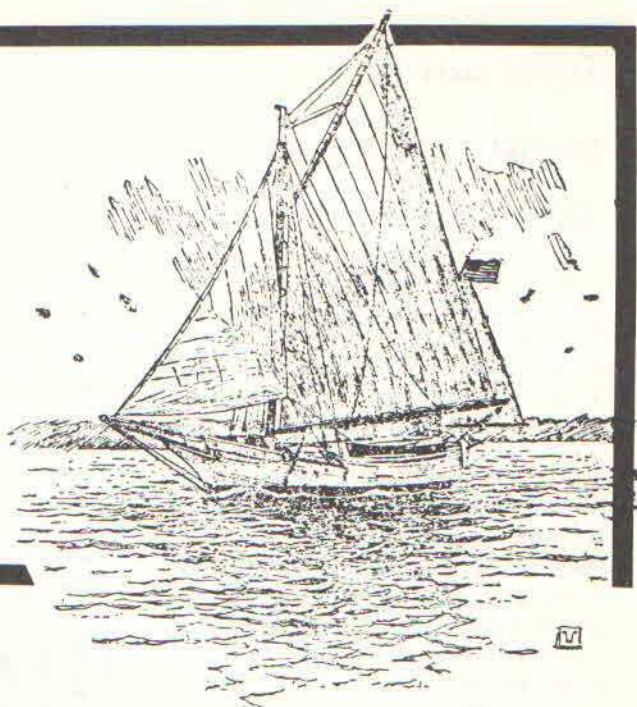


SSS The Singlehander

Vol. 1 No. 1
December 1977

Official Newsletter of the
Singlehanded Sailing Society

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(415) 465-7932



From the

Commodore's Cockpit

By George Sigler

The society wishes to take this opportunity to thank the many talented and dedicated sailing enthusiasts whose untiring efforts have made this, the first official newsletter possible. Thanks also to the many members and non-members alike who have participated equally in the tremendous task of helping to organize, promote and publicize the Society, its concepts, purposes and events.

The results of all this work have been most gratifying. Membership is now approaching 40 individuals, many of whom are now veterans of two successful offshore singlehanded sailing races. The organizational details for the upcoming Solo Transpac are coming together nicely and future local offshore and more racers. All in all the upcoming year appears as if it is going to be another busy one.

We are looking for a membership of around 100 regular active, participating sailors from within the bay area. The Society is now an official non-profit educational corporation. Bylaws and Articles are on file at Survival and Safety Designs. Those interested can inspect them there.

Fabulous SSS Christmas Party Scheduled at TI Officers Club

Still to come in 1977 is our Christmas party on Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m. at the Treasure Islands Officers Club. RSVP Early! Our presently reserved space is limited, but we can expand if reservations warrant it and we know soon enough.

Libations will include beer, wine and maybe champagne.

Snacks will be provided, but we would be happy if your lady did herself proud and brought her best party-snack.

In any event, don't miss it. . .



Valiant Contessa roars up the coast enroute to Drake's Bay for additional committee boat chores. Skipper Ted Kellogg is joined in the cockpit by one of his crew, Vee Vollan.

Informal race tentatively set Dec. 17th

The Single-handed Sailing Society has decided to sponsor an informal single-handed yacht race to be held on Saturday, December 17th. This race will probably start off of Aquatic Park in San Francisco and proceed out to the Lightship and back. The details of this race have not been worked out as yet. We would like all interested members of non-members to write or call so we can get some idea of how many participants there will be. We will also be sending out information to those who would like to participate so call and let us know who you are.

For information please call:
Survival & Safety Designs:
834-6877; Warren Seward: 527-3008 or Vee Volla: 524-5428.

Contessa being rigged for the Transpac '78

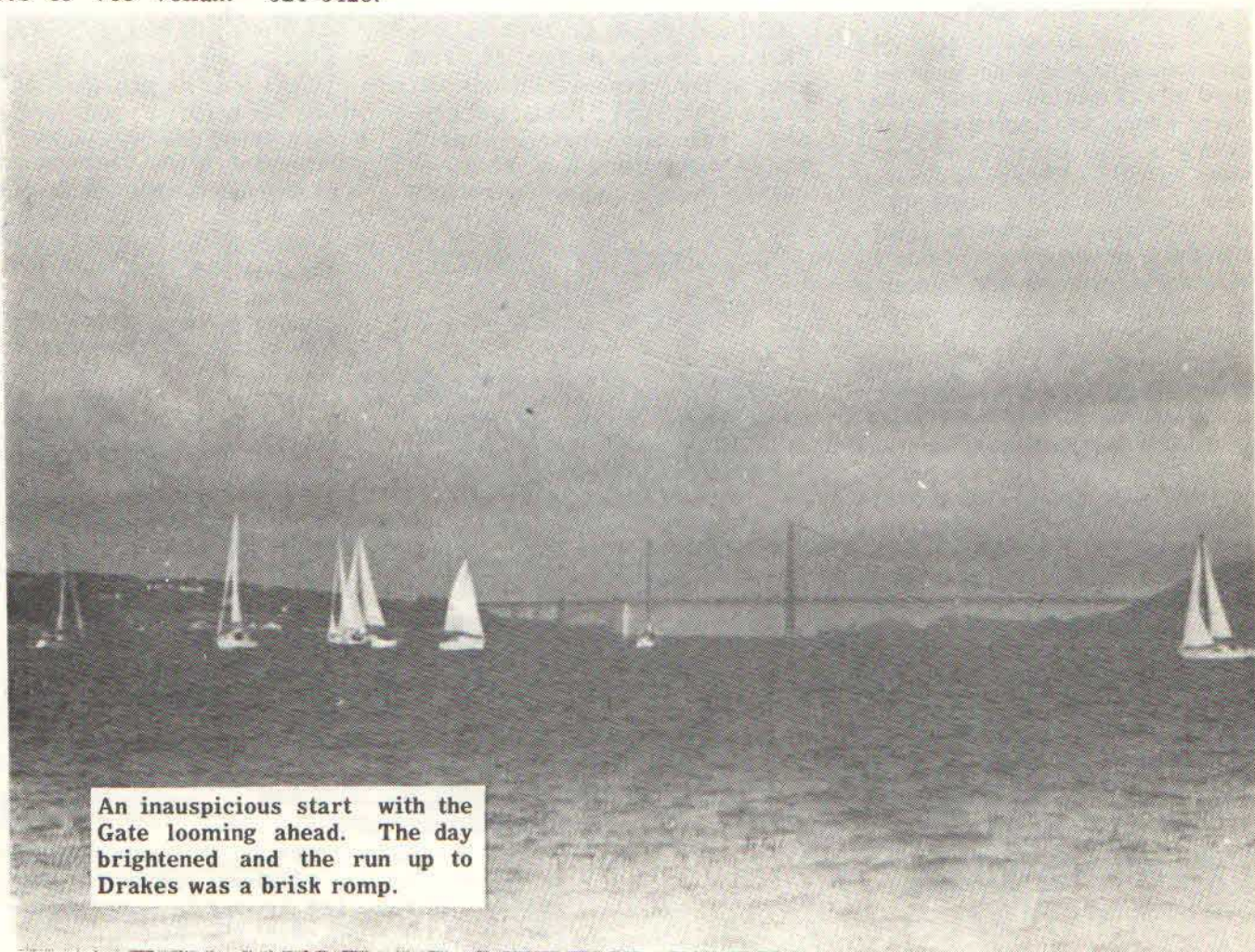
SSD is starting to rig Contessa 32 for the Transpac. They will be trying out new gear and will publish results in later bulletins. How about some more feedback from the rest of you on what works and how. Also personal items, goals and ambitions, boats, experiences, etc. Editorials are also welcome.

We have received a few of the inevitable criticism that our offshore races favor big boats and bank accounts. The equipment lists are not arbitrary, but are made up to enable us to get Coast Guard approval of the races we

sponsor. Although the equipment is expensive, especially if bought all at one time, it is for the safety of the crew and vessel, and to venture offshore without it is unwise whether cruising or racing. To sail singlehanded without adequate safety and survival gear is folly verging on irresponsibility and goes directly against the aims of the Singlehanded Sailing Society to promote better and safer sailing. Without the equipment requirements, neither the insurance companies nor the Coast Guard would permit the races.

Drakes Bay REMEMBERED

The following are some of the mediocre photos taken by SSS member Dick Folger in an attempt to capture the zest and excitement of the great Drakes Bay Race.



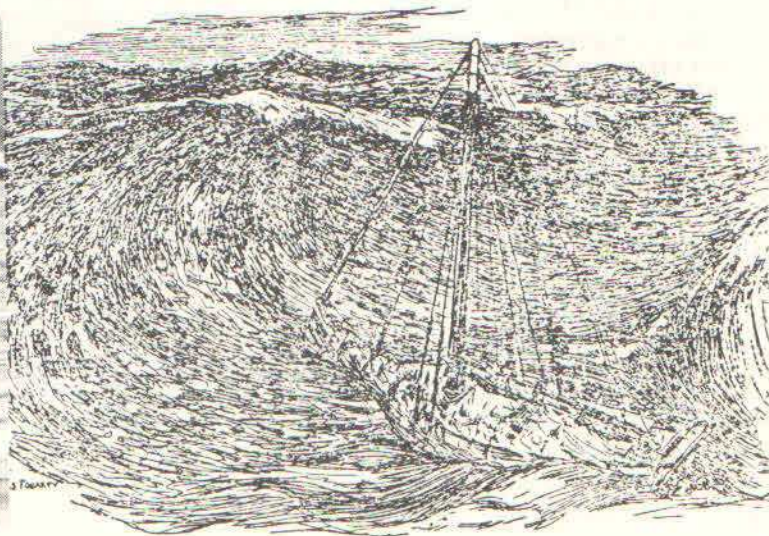
An inauspicious start with the Gate looming ahead. The day brightened and the run up to Drakes was a brisk romp.

It was a sleepy Sunday morning start for the near-windless drift home.



Drakes Bay

O what a beautiful morning. . .the crew of MATRIX stirs on deck with fond memories of a firelight feast the night before on the beach. Ahead lay a busy day for Matrix skipper Andy Petterson. Helping tow engineless boats to the start and finally at days end towing Bob Sammons' Pajaro to Sausalito.



Singlehander

Secretary's Notes

By Gary Weishaupt

With two official races behind us a picture is beginning to develop and the Society now has more definite directions to follow.

The turnouts for the races have exceeded original expectations and comments so far have been favorable, but we do need more volunteer help for race committee officials and representatives.

Remarks and comments received so far are about an even split between wanting longer and shorter courses. This can be arranged both ways only if boat sizes became split roughly 50/50 large and small. Presently the average size is around 30 to 32 LOA, with only 4 boats falling below a 25' length. Small boat skippers are going to have to go out and round up more competition for their class. It would be great if each race had at least 10 under 25 footers!

On an average, equipment and rigging troubles have been unusually high for such short races. Winds have been high but it looks like we're going to need to take a second look at how we rig our boats. Fatigue is also unusually high indicating a lack of proper planning for crew protection and rig handling.

It seems that the Farralons race gave us all a greater appreciation of what offshore cruising or racing can be like. Some participants will probably go on to longer races like the Transatlantic or upcoming Solo Transpac while others will no doubt sail crewed vessels from here on out. Race results indicate that **Society members were better prepared** than non-society members. New events for 1978 will include:

Farralons Race	March 24, 1978
Monterey Race	Sept. 23, 24, 1978
Transpac Race	June

This will be a biannual event.



Sturdy Stasu Sweeping North.



Floatin' in a folkboat.



Painted Wind's Homeward
Bound with
Skipper Paul Boehmke



Annual Events

1. Farallons Race (Every Easter Weekend)
2. Lightship Race—On TransPac off years, July
3. Drakes Bay or Monterey Race—September
4. Annual Christmas party December

Biannual Events

Singlehanded Transpacific Race, in June of even numbered years so as not to interfere with other Transpacs.

Unscheduled Events

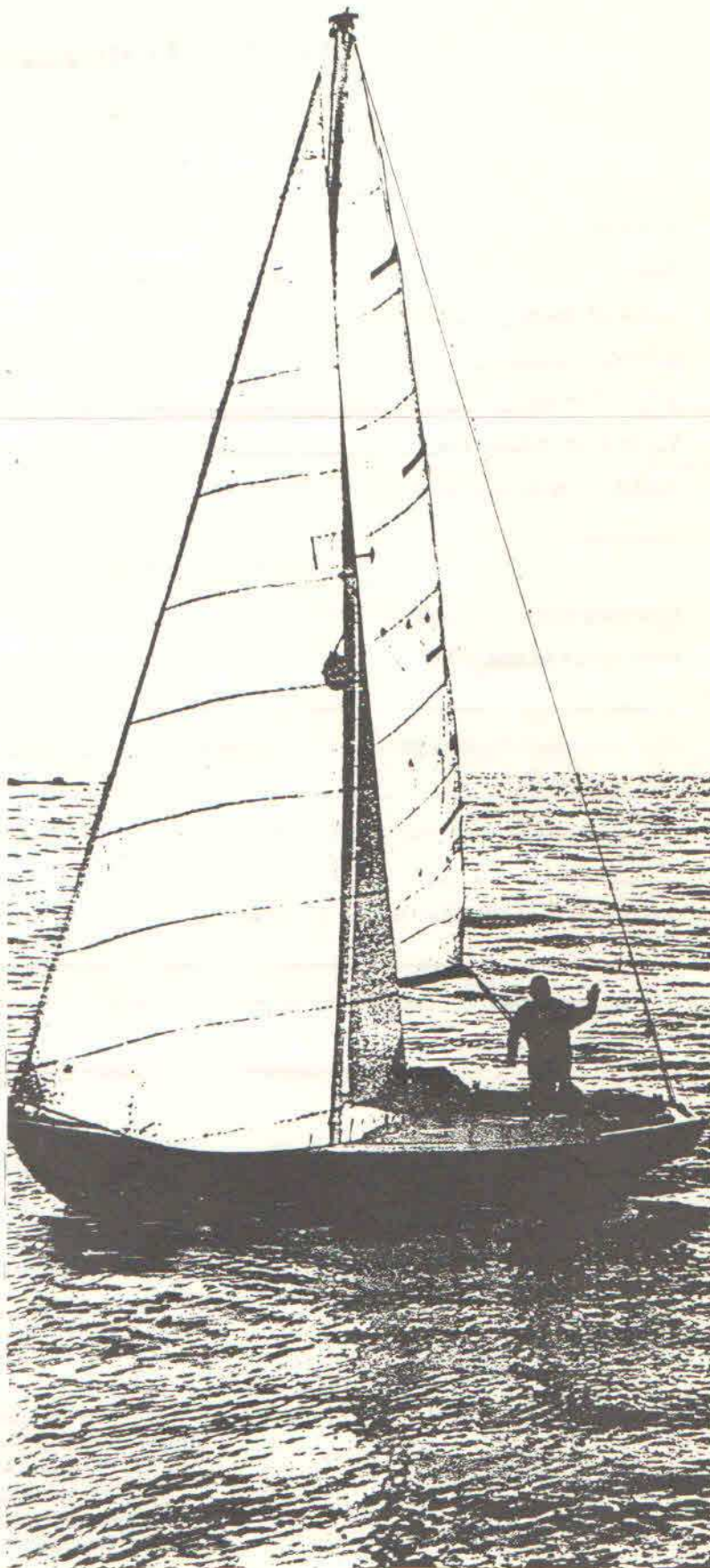
From time to time the national offices of the Society will sanction other singlehanded events throughout the world as requested by clubs and sub-chapters requiring an official Transpac qualifying race or any event that is provided for the testing of gear or techniques.

Copies of the General Conditions of each individual race will be available thru the Society approximately 90 days prior to the start date of said events.

Members will be sent said conditions while non-members can obtain copies by writing the Society.

Newsletter

Besides providing an individual with the opportunity to meet and share ideas and experiences with other singlehanded sailors, Society membership entitles you to: receive four copies per year of the Singlehander. The Society newsletter contains news briefs, interviews, tech articles and helpful hints. Thru the newsletter we will attempt to answer questions, air complaints, propose experiments, record race results, and in general cover those areas of interest in detail, that are too lengthy to be satisfactorily covered at membership meetings.



Singlehanded Sailing Society

Date: _____



Application for Membership

(Please Print or Type)

Name _____ Home phone _____ Work phone _____
Address _____ Zip _____
Type of Yacht _____ Documentation _____
or C.F. No. _____
Name of Yacht _____ No. _____
Waterline Length _____ Length on deck _____
Where Berthed _____
Yacht Club Affiliation _____
Hull & deck colors or other identifying characteristics. _____

Please give us a short history of your boating life.

How long have you been sailing? _____

What types of boats have you sailed? _____

Any long singlehanded passages you have made _____

Any noteworthy item that might interest the other members _____

Any special skills that might be helpful to the society. Diver, boat repair, sail repair, etc. _____

If you know another sailor who might like to join please print his/her name and address. _____

Annual Membership Dues \$50.00 _____
(includes 3 Race entries/yr.)

Newsletter only \$20.00 _____

Return to:
Singlehanded Sailing Society
c/o Oceanic Society
Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 441-1120