



SINGLEHANDED SAILING SOCIETY

Jan 1, 2008

Greetings fellow members and friends of the Singlehanded Sailing Society, and welcome to another great year of sailing and racing. The SSS has continued to expand its membership over the past few years, and has become a recognized and respected force in the Bay area sailing community. As always, the officers of the SSS Board will strive to further the goals of our fine organization and manage the SSS in a manner worthy of our predecessors and our membership,.

The SSS skippers are a unique breed. Sailing shorthanded requires a very different mindset. Many people think we are a little crazy. It's something that we all have in common, and it creates a bond between us. This is why SSS members will bend over backward to help each other out. Even though we are fierce competitors on the racecourse, we are also kindred spirits supporting one another in our unique challenges.

I've been a member of the SSS for 12 years. When I first joined, I was a newbie in every sense of the word. I had just bought my first sailboat, and had no real racing experience. Little did I know at that time how big a part of my life the SSS would become. Never did I imagine the number of friends I would make, the help I would receive, and the challenges I would face and overcome.

The SSS race program is designed for shorthanded racers at all levels, from the neophyte to the well seasoned. The bay races are fun for everyone and a good place to start as a singlehander. The Farallones and Half Moon Bay races take the skipper out of the bay and into what can be fairly challenging open water. The 400 mile LongPac race is the perfect first step into long distance offshore singlehanded, and serves as a qualifier for our longest race, the Singlehanded TransPac to Kauai. The SSS race program is excellent training for those who want to become proficient singlehanders, and a great way to have fun doing it.

The wealth of knowledge within the SSS membership is truly amazing, and it's available for anyone who asks. To those of you who are not members and may be thinking about joining, I strongly suggest you come to a few of our meetings or seminars and talk to us. Go to the website and read and participate in the online forum, you'll see some fascinating stuff. Read the archived logs from past singlehanded TransPacs – this is the real deal, the way it really happens out there singlehanded in the middle of the ocean. You won't regret it.

Mark Deppe
SSS Commodore