

WA Mistress MKIII: Shadowside

The Voyage of the Sailing Vessel Shadowside July 11, 2016 to July 26, 2016



Heading for the Golden Gate after the Start of the Pacific Cup

July 11, 2016

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The Dream

This is the story of the fulfillment of a dream. My family and I moved to San Francisco in 1979 from Long Island, New York. Soon after we settled in, our beloved Cape Dory 30, Lothlorian, arrived from New York by truck.

In 1980, the first Pacific Cup Yacht Race from San Francisco to Hawaii was sailed and my dream of sailing the Cup and making the return voyage in my own boat was kindled.

From 1979 until 1985 we sailed the Lothlorian in San Francisco Bay and off the North Coast of California. In 1985, I accepted a promotion that took us to LA. A friend and I sailed the Lothlorian from San Francisco to LA, arriving in Marina Del Rey on Halloween Day 1985.

In the search for a slip at Marina Del Ray, I met Ed, the owner of a 42 foot Allied Ketch. By that time, my three growing sons had outgrown the Lothlorian and Ed was wanting a smaller boat. We arranged a deal in which he became the owner of the Cape Dory and we became the owners of the Allied, which we named the Shadowside (See: the Boat).

We sailed the waters of Southern California from 1986 to 1989 when we returned to San Francisco. From 1989 to 2016, we again sailed SF Bay and the North Coast as far North as Fort Brag.

The Pacific Cup continued to be sailed every, even year after 1980 (See: The Race). Each cycle of the Pacific Cup rekindled my dream until it finally came true with the 2016 Race.

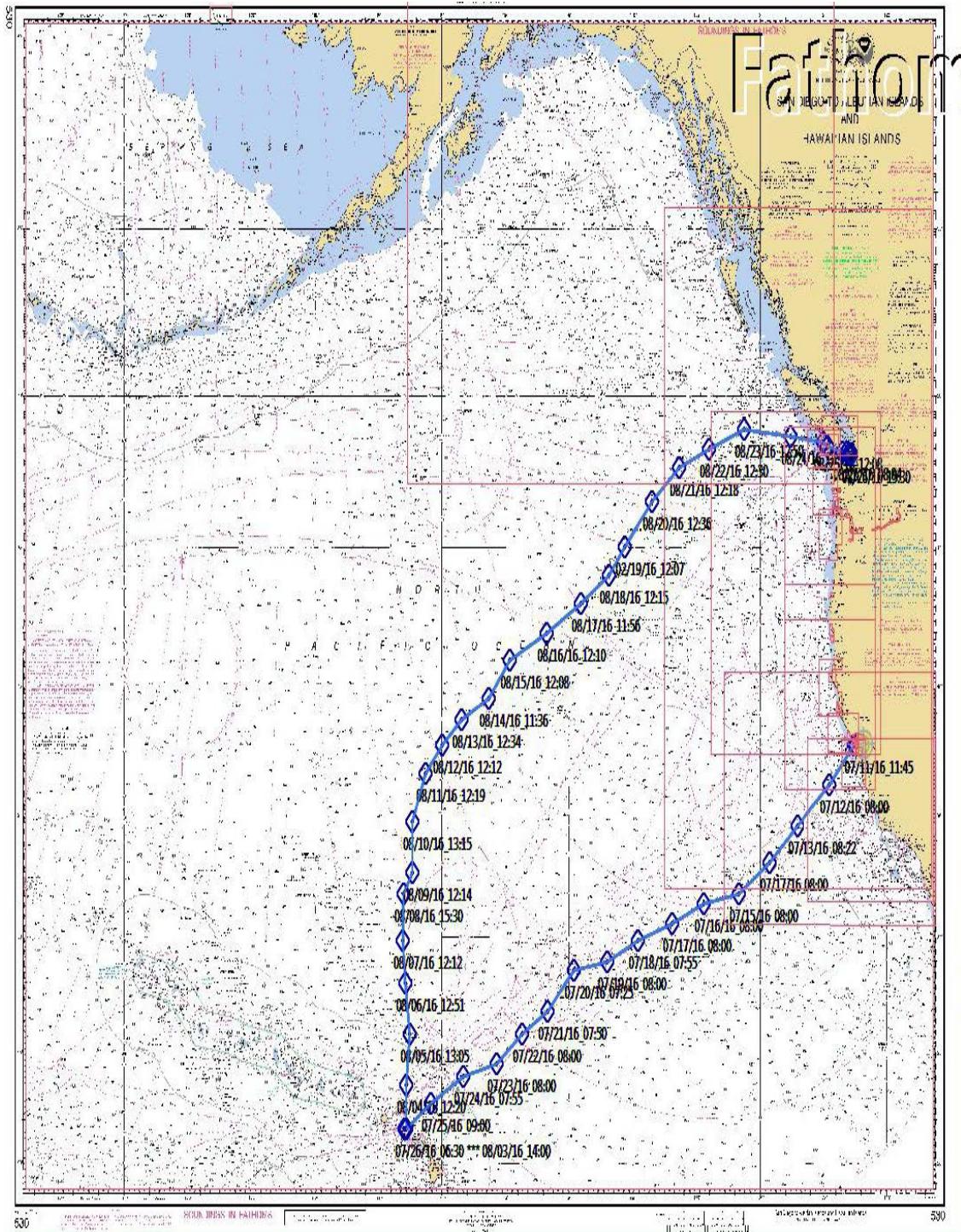
On July 11, 2016, the Ketch Shadowside crossed the starting line in front of the Saint Francis Yacht Club and headed out the Golden Gate for the finish line in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. After 2139 nautical miles, 14 days, 21 hours, 29 minutes and Tropical Storm Darby, we crossed the finish line.

After eight beautiful days in Hawaii, which featured the great hospitality of the Kaneohe Bay Yacht Club and a change of crew, the Shadowside cast off on August 03, 216 for the return voyage to our new home in Port Townsend, Washington. On August 25th, 2016, we entered the Strait of Juan de Fuca at Cape Flattery, WA. At 15:30 on August 26th, 2016 we docked at Port Townsend Yacht Haven Marina after a voyage of 2,617 nautical miles and 23 days at sea.

The Story incorporates posts and comments from the Shadowside Blog, photographs and other materials. It is told in two parts. One that chronicles the Voyage to Hawaii and one for the Return Voyage.

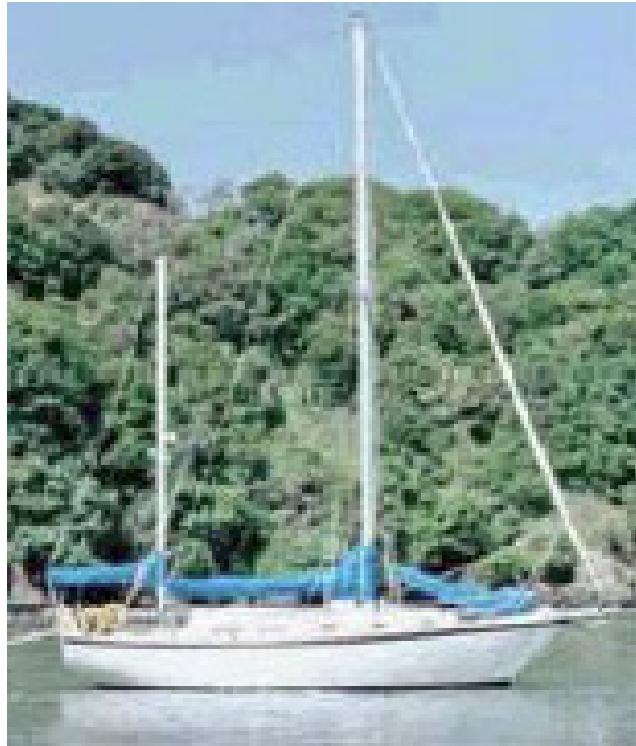
I hope you will enjoy reading about this adventure.

The Voyages



July 11 - July 26
August 4 - August 27
2016

The Boat



"Shadowside" is an Allied Mistress MKIII. She is 42 ft overall, 30 ft at the waterline, a 12 ft beam, a 4.5 ft draft and displaces 21,800 lb.

She has been well maintained and re-rigged down to and including the chain-plates. The sails and the six-person liferaft are new.

"Shadowside" will not be the fastest boat in the race, but she is stable and sea-kindly. Our challenge will be to sail her well and keep her moving in the right direction. She has been weighed and measured for a CPHRF Rating.

The Racing Crew



(Left to Right)

- Lad Burgin - Skipper
- Bill Myers - Shore Crew: Navigation and Weather
- Alejandro Dorazio - All round great sailor and Chef
- Kimber Oswald - Sailor and Exceptional Mechanic
- Kathy McGraw - First Officer
- Donna Austin - Shore Crew and Provisioning Maven

The Return Crew



(Left to Right)

- Lee Krasnow -Exceptional Sail Trimmer and Fisherman
- Michelle Diaz - Best Mast Climber in the Fleet
- Molly Reynolds - Social Director
- Lad Burgin - Skipper
- Don Van Valkenburg - Ship's Photographer

The Race



The “FUN Race to Hawaii” runs every even year from San Francisco to Hawaii. Started in 1980, the race has been enjoyed by thousands of racers sailing well over a million miles in total.

The 2016 Pacific Cup will start the week of July 11, 2016, and invites well-prepared boats to race to the warm, welcoming shores of Kaneohe Bay, Oahu.

Before the race, participants will attend safety and preparation seminars and social events including the very popular Bon Voyage party the weekend of July 9. Of course, the accent is on preparation. In addition to our seminars, we maintain an online repository, a “knowledgebase” of information about ocean racing

in general and the Pac Cup in particular. This information is available without charge to any ocean voyager, whether cruising, Trans Pac, Coastal Cup, or other race.

Underway, after a challenging reach down the coast to find the best weather, our participants will turn toward Hawaii, for day after day of incredible downwind sailing, culminating in the thrilling Tradewinds, with steady, firm breezes driving them toward the finish.

The Finish. After anywhere from a record-setting six to a somewhat leisurely seventeen days, we finish. Most racers finish in ten to fourteen days. The finish is off the windy north coast of Oahu, near Kaneohe Bay. The members of Kaneohe Yacht Club mount an incredible welcoming effort, starting with a finish line committee and escort boat to bring our tired crews to the KYC harbor. The “Leis and Trays” committee greets each arrival with wearable and consumable tokens of welcome to these friendly islands.



Post Finish. A social calendar is provided by KYC, including parties and just lounging by the pool, in the bar, or in the “Long House” sharing stories and waiting for the next boat to arrive. Near the end of the week, the evenings light up with a spectacular luau, followed by a Mount Gay featured party the next evening, and culminating with the awards party and the handing out of trophies.



All too soon, we must bid an aloha farewell to the islands and the race, only to begin the planning for next year.

The 2016 Pac Cup – Mountains, Holes and Moguls

by Jim Quancy

This year's Pac Cup was wind, wind and more wind. Getting out of Dodge that first day, the missing light wind ridge, north and south – there was good wind everywhere. The strong high north east of Hawaii and an unbroken string of Tropical Depressions created these strong winds across the whole course. And winds means waves. And yes, there were waves.

The first two days from a tight to beam reach was in 8 to 12 foot swells birthed in the Gulf of Alaska. Then several days of Northerlys down the California Coast threw another 4 to 6 foot wind waves on top. The good part is they were mostly in the same direction. The bad part is when they aligned, it meant green water on deck and every boat that said before the race they were “dry” found they were not. These big beam seas also resulted in likely 80 percent of all crew having a touch (or a lot) of mal de mer.

As we entered the middle section of the race, things got messy. The 4 to 6 foot swell – still from the north – joined 8 to 10 foot trade wind waves from the east and then the rare 5 to 8 footer from the south birthed in one of those Tropical Depressions. So, sizable waves from three directions made for a real mogul field of waves. When they all hit at the same times you could find yourself pooped from behind – standing in a foot of water when at the wheel – which had the positive effect of cleaning out the cockpit nicely. There was no need for taking turns with buckets cleaning the cockpit this year! When they aligned “just right”, you would find yourself falling off a 16 to 18-foot cliff into a deep dark hole – seeing boat speeds in the high teens in only 20 knots of wind. How many times can you have the spinnaker collapse back on the rig as you fall down the front of the wave, only to have it shock fill when you reached the bottom? How many times can you watch your bow pulpit disappear in a wave when you reach the bottom of that hole in the water before crying uncle? Most entrants found out in the mid- to later- half of the race as even their strongest kites started blowing up from this wave induced repetitive shock loading. And those snooker waves coming from the Tropicals to the south. A few times per day you would be hit broadside by one of those Tropical created waves from the south – born off Mexico - that if it hit you in the stern meant an “auto broach” and if it hit you in the bow meant an “auto round down”. And these waves were big heavy irresistible forces that any rudder or helmsman is ill equipped to counter.

And once in a while.... a helmsman dream would appear. Atop one of those 18 or so foot mountains, a pass through the mountain ahead of you would appear. So bow down, race down the first mountain, catch the pass through the second mountain before it closed up – with the boat in the mid-teens the whole way – a full minute or two. Call it double black diamond. Call it Le Mans. When at night and blind, call it just plain scary. And when you caught the rarest of the rare... a pass through 3 mountains... personal and boat speed records fell... 17k, 18k, 20k of boat speed and more – from boats everyone said were displacement and couldn't/shouldn't surf. In a typical PacCup, the biggest steepest waves are the last 100 miles as you approach the islands – as the tradewind waves have had the most time to build them up and then the shallower water slows them down making for big short period waves. But you know this year was different – or maybe just felt different. After the “mine field” of waves in the middle of the course, and after the crews had figured out how to manage them through day, night and the occasional squall, the last miles went easy. Just another day on the Pacific Ocean. This race did leave many of us wondering “so why do they call it the “pacific” ocean?

Note: Jim Quancy sailed this year's race a navigator on Encore.

<https://pacificcup.org/article/2016-pac-cup---mountains-holes-and-moguls-jim-quancy> [9/16/2016 1:05:56 PM]

Thursday, April 30, 2015

“Lightship” Race

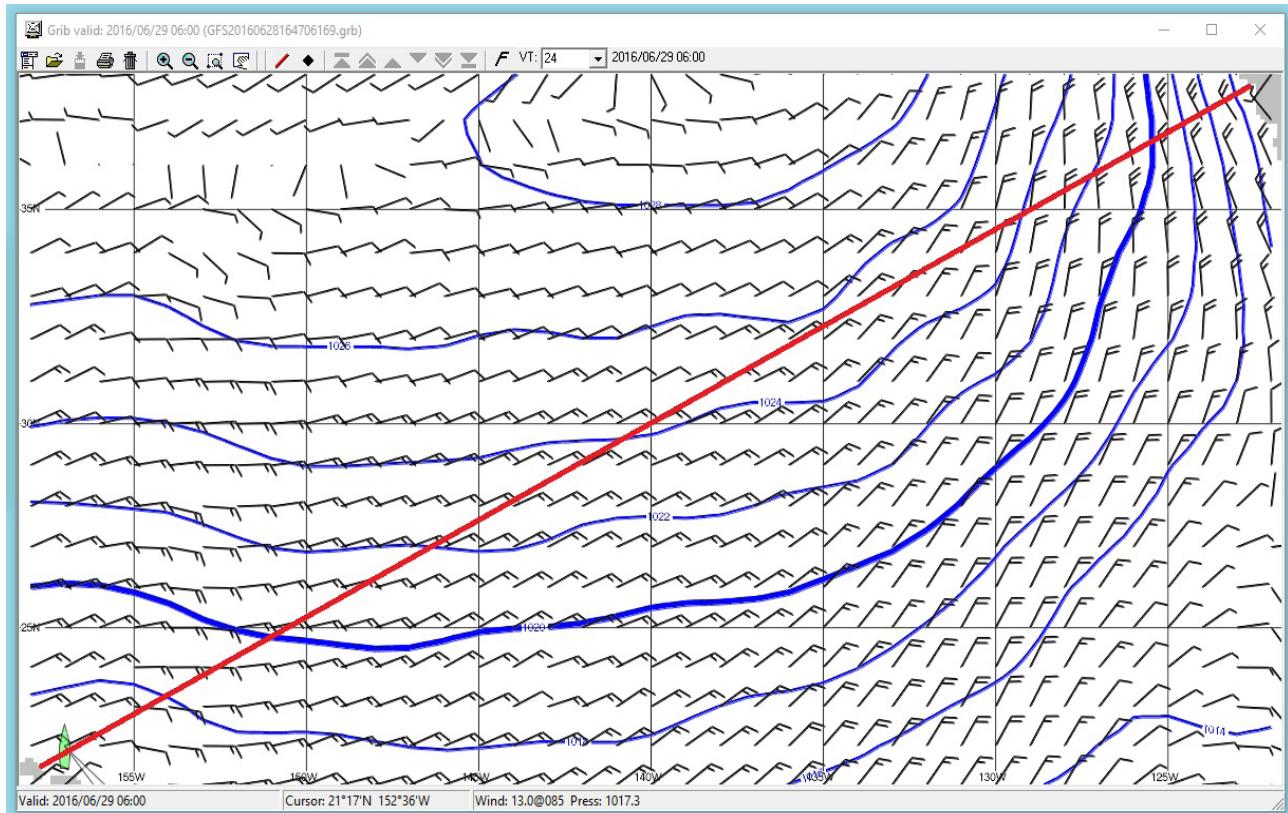


On Saturday, 04/25/15 Shadowside participated in the OYRA #1 Ocean race. Out around the “Lightship” and back. A five hour trip into the ocean.

There are eight races in this series, and doing as many of them as possible is part of our warm-up for the Pacific Cup race next year.

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

WEATHER (or not)



The wonders of modern technology!

I just made an email request for a prediction of the San Francisco to Hawaii weather for tomorrow. Then I sent out the request and got this custom made weather map a few minutes later. It shows the wind speed and direction, and the air pressure isobars. I've drawn a straight line from the start line to the finish line just to guide the eye. Clearly going straight takes you into lighter winds. A more southern route is indicated. But there's the rub. How south can you go without suffering from the increased distance?

That's what makes it a race. Makes it fun.

Please comment to the blog. We want to hear from you.

Posted by Bill Myers at Tuesday, June 28, 2016

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

New Crew Member



Alejandro Dorazio

32 "Little Dipper"

I have been sailing in the bay for about five years and love racing sailboats. I am a pastry chef by trade, and I love working with my hands. Very passionate about wooden sailboats.

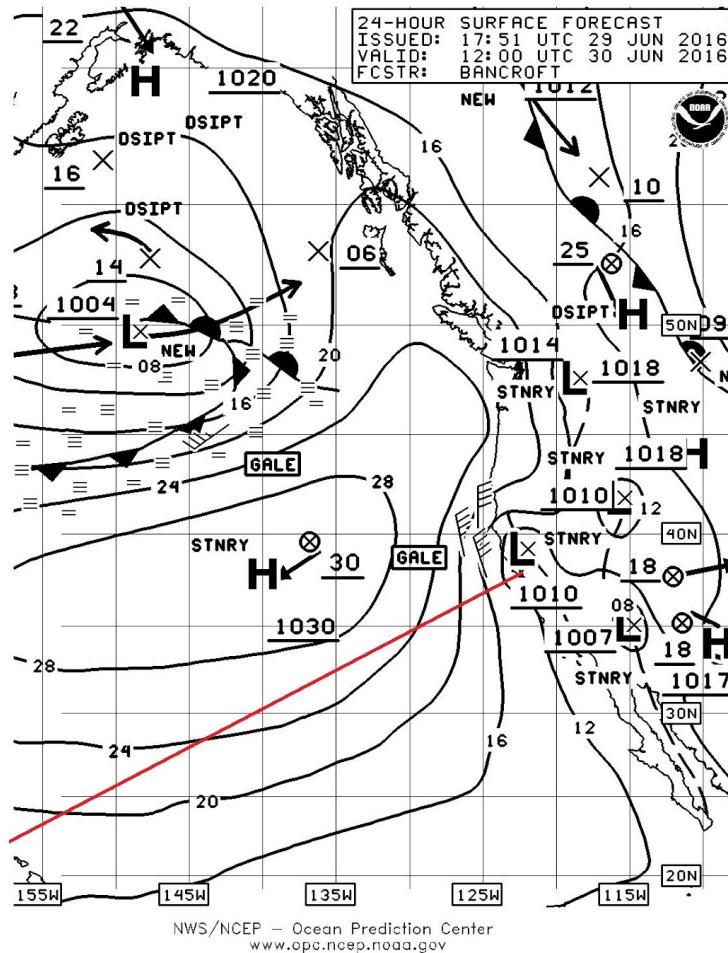
Thursday, June 30, 2016

Another Kind of Weather map

Forty knot gale from the north right outside the Golden Gate.

Pretty mellow (On the way to Hawaii.) otherwise.

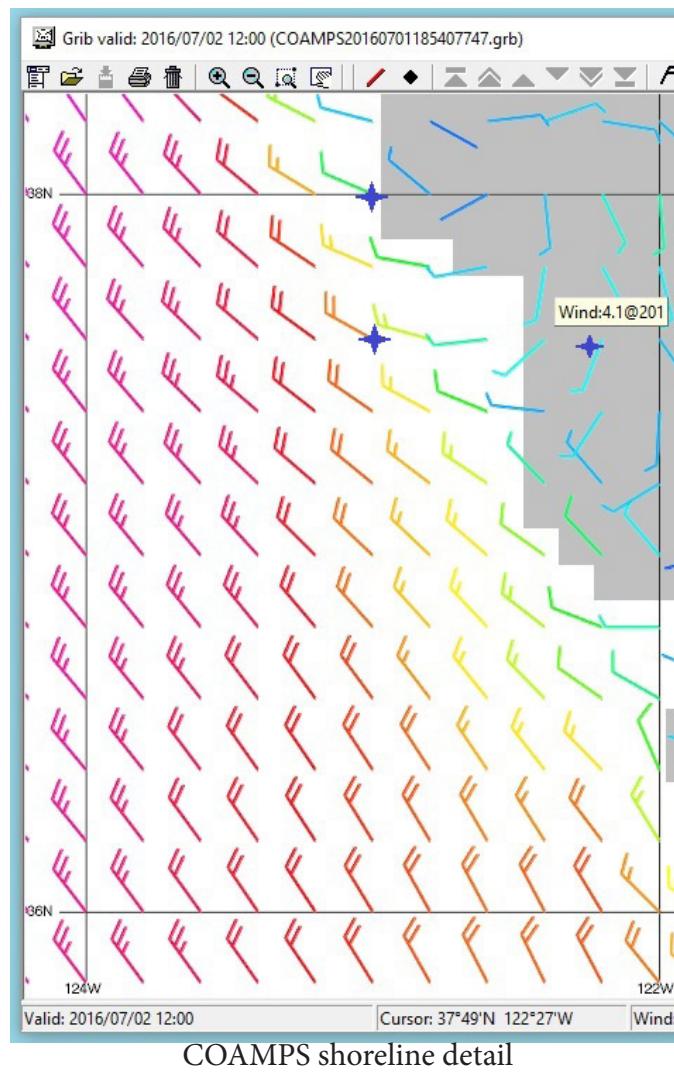
Posted by Bill Myers



Thursday Morning in San Francisco

Friday, July 1, 2016

Yet Another Kind of Weather Map



Our regular weather maps don't properly show the details of the wind as it meets the shoreline. For the first few hours of the race we need more details like the ones provided by this special chart. Here the blue crosses are roughly located at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, at the Farallon Islands and at the Golden Gate Bridge.

Posted by Bill Myers

Friday, July 1, 2016

The Finish Line

We have planned our route as best we can ahead of time. We have a couple different kinds of weather information. We even know how to get detailed start line weather and Kathy tells me that she has tidal current charts to help us out under the Golden Gate.

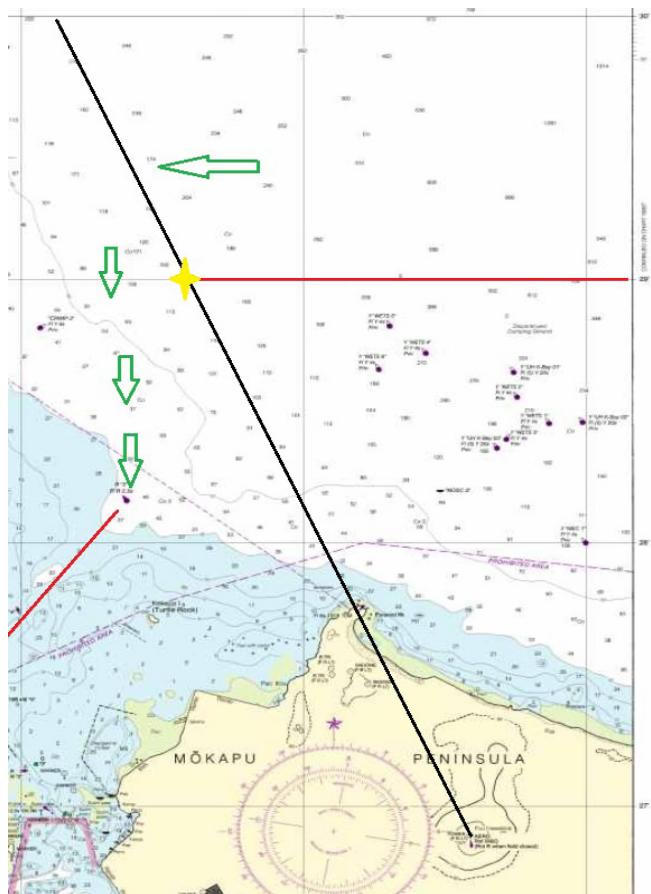
What is there left to do? Well, the Finish Line would be one example.

Unlike the Transpac Race (That is held on odd numbered years.) our race does not finish at the Diamond Head Buoy off of Waikiki. Instead, our finish line is in the open ocean off of Kaneohe Bay on the east side of Oahu.



The orange cross marks the approximate location of the Pacific Cup finish line. The picture below shows this part of the chart in more detail.

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Detail of the Pacific Cup finish line.

The finish line consists of that part of a line through the aeronautical beacon on Puu Hawaiiloa (On the Marine Corps Base.) and Pyramid Rock that extends NNW from the yellow cross where the line crosses Latitude 21deg 29min.

This is a little different than previous years because there is a new rule that boats are not permitted to cross the part of Latitude 21deg 29min that is indicated by the horizontal red line on the chart. You can easily see why. All those little dots cluttering up that part of the ocean represent the locations of different kinds of experimental machines for producing electricity from wave motion.

So, when we are finishing we will pass just north of a temporary buoy located near the yellow cross on the chart. Our official finish time will be when we cross the line from Puu Hawaiiloa through Pyramid Rock. Then we will follow the green arrows to the "Sampan" channel and on into the bay. It will take us about a half hour to reach the Kaneohe Yacht Club where we are expecting a big reception.

Posted by Bill Myers



**Agenda for
Skipper's Meeting
July 9, 2016, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Introductions	Gary Troxel	1300
Binder Contents and Start Line Procedures	Bobbi Tosse	1305
Trackers; Communications; Daily Check-Ins	Michael Morazadeh Gregory Newman	1315
Medical Emergency Assistance	Steve Chamberlin	1330
USCG Emergency Communications	Kerry Bolen, MST1 Nathaniel Johnson, LCDR James Alling, ENS	1340
Optional Software; Tsunami Debris	Rowena Carlson	1355
Sailing Instructions; Finish Line;	Buzz Blackett	1400
Entrance Channels; Escorts; Inspections	Steve Chamberlin Ray Sanborn Tootsie Sanborn	1415
Photos and Flags	Leslie Richter	1425
Trophies; Hoisting Small Boats at KYC	Charlie Roskosz	1430
Weather	Lee Chesneau	1435
Q & A	Buzz Blackett	1500

Sunday, July 10, 2016

GG Bridge, calm and clear.



Less than 24 hours to go.

Posted by Bill Myers

Sunday, July 10, 2016

20:00 and ready to go

After a challenging day of preparation the Shadowside is ready to set sail. Special thanks to Bill and Donna for their efforts on our behalf.

Lad



Monday, July 11, 2016

Fairwell San Francisco!

Monday, July 11, 2016

Day 1 - 22:45

78 miles down course - Sailing down our course line under reefed jib and mizzen wind 20-25 knts
NW waves about 10 feet.

Comments:

- riddlerandyJuly 11, 2016 at 8:59 PM

Congratulations on your great start. Hope everyone is feeling well, and getting some rest. And that the seas settle down a bit, or at least don't get any bigger. Have fun.

- caroline yacoeJuly 11, 2016 at 11:34 PM

Sounds good. Tough conditions, but that beats sitting around for two days looking at the Farallons. Caroline and Bill

- AnonymousJuly 12, 2016 at 9:03 AM

Burke, Greg and Jason watched and shared the start from CA, AZ and NYC, thanks to amazing technology and the web cam from St. Francis YC! Sounds like you are having great moments in sailing, Shadowside!

- riddlerandyJuly 12, 2016 at 10:12 AM

Shadowside start photos now available: <http://www.rockskipper.com/Sailing-Galleries/2016-Pacific-Cup/Jul-11-2016-Starts/Honu-Division-PHRF-A/i-RCktbk6>

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As of this morning 1970 miles to go and speed at 6.9 knots . Thats 12 days. Go for it! Caroline and bill

- caroline yacoeJuly 12, 2016 at 10:45 AM

Start photos are fantastic. I'll put a couple on the blog.

Are you getting "Comments" on Sailmail?

If it is too much let me know and I can turn them off.

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Tuesday, July 12, 2016
2016-07-12-1200 PDT

They are doing great.

On the Pacific Cup tracking page [LINK](#) it shows them with 1921 nm to go and moving at 7.3 knots.

That means, only 11 days to go. That would be Saturday the 23rd, a whole week ahead of the finish deadline. Not bad.

Fantastic starting line photo.



LINK to a fantastic starting line photo. <http://www.rockskipper.com/Sailing-Galleries/2016-Pacific-Cup/Jul-11-2016-Starts/Honu-Division-PHRF-A/i-RCktbk6>

Posted by Bill Myers

Comments:

- Kay MyersJuly 12, 2016 at 9:10 PM

Wanted to let you know I am still monitoring and wishing you fair winds for your journey all the way from Kansas. Starting photos look great.

- AnonymousJuly 13, 2016 at 7:41 AM

Folks, we landlubbers are confused: who is actually sailing on the boat and who is writing the posts on the blog?

Pictures and crew info do seem to show different things.

Ulli from Germany

- riddlerandyJuly 13, 2016 at 8:06 AM

Guten morgen. Here are the folks on the boat: <https://pacificcup.org/16/entry/shadowside>

- Marilyn in SFJuly 13, 2016 at 11:36 AM

Any details to share? What rotation are you using for crewing, sleeping? How's the food? And how's the boat faring? Would love more details! Cheers to all!

- riddlerandyJuly 13, 2016 at 12:06 PM

Good morning Shadowside, congratulations on your great progress. I hope everyone is healthy and getting enough rest. Hope to hear from you soon.

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Spinnakers and meatballs

Hello friends and family from the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Shadowside's current position is N 33 44.880 by W 127 59.634 with a speed over ground of 8.1. We enjoyed much calmer seas today after having our feet put to the fire the first night with much gustier wind and a big sea state. Shadowside is taking good care of us and we are all enjoying sailing a ketch rigged boat with all of the sail configurations we can make. The crew is in good spirits and have settled into life on a 40' boat. With some of the crew having a hard time eating the first 24 hours, our first meal was a real blessing. Pasta and meatballs! For those of you that have never tried to cook at sea, just know that any meal preparation is a trial of defying gravity.

We have set up our 5th crew member, who we have named George. George is a Hydrovane self steering system that will steer the boat for us while we sit there and look at waves, make sail changes, or just try not to spill our morning cup of coffee all over the place. We love George and imagine he speaks in the third person like that Seinfeld episode. "George loves sailing!" We will try to update the blog daily, so stay tuned to more tales of adventure. Until then, know (mom) that we are safe and having a great time. Don't forget you can comment on the blog and we will receive your messages.

Adios and good night from the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

-kimber

Friday, July 15, 2016

Going where the wind takes us

Howdy land lubbers! Shadowside here with another report from day 4? of the race. Time tends to meld together out here in the open ocean. Between watch schedules, sail changes, and the incredibly hard task of making scrambled eggs in a rolling sea, one tends to forget the day. We are currently N32.09 W131.06 course over ground 225 drifting along at a measly 4.6 knots. The wind has shifted to the aft of and we are waiting for watch shift to set up a whisker pole so we can fly wing and wing. The weather and sea conditions have been favorable, although we are all still dawning our foulies. We can feel the warmer weather approaching, and I'll be able to put away all of my Patagucci technical warm clothing. The night sky is overcast so there are no stars or moon to speak of. Just the black black horizon. George, or "Jorge" as we also affectionately call him, because not only do sailors give their self steering gear names, we also give them nicknames. Jorge has been doing less steering downwind and the actual humans on-board have been hand steering. Its quite a strange feeling driving a sailboat through the dark black ocean.

Posted by Bill Myers at Friday, July 15, 2016 7 comments:

The crew remain in good health and spirits. We have been eating well and getting enough sleep with our 4 hours on/4 hours off watch schedule. We are currently last in our division BUT that has not dampened our fighting spirit! We are the bad news bears of the race, the mighty ducks of the Pac Cup!! The era of the ketch is not over.

Hope all is well and good out there on dry land. Until next time. Same bat channel time same bat channel.

Comments:

- riddlerandyJuly 15, 2016 at 6:20 AM

Thanks for the update, glad to hear everyone is generally well and rested. Please thank Kathy for the voicemail, sorry I missed the call. Tropical days in your future.

- Nancy IsenburgJuly 15, 2016 at 10:07 AM

It's ALL about the journey - enjoy each other, the Black ocean & relish the warm winds to come ...

- Cara JonesJuly 15, 2016 at 2:30 PM

Hi Kimber,
Yes this is Mom using my gmail alias!
Following your blogs.....hope the clouds disappear so you can enjoy the stars.
Look forward to reading more about your journey.

- riddlerandyJuly 15, 2016 at 4:19 PM

And let Kathy know I have decided that we should change our September vacation destination from Istanbul

- AnonymousJuly 15, 2016 at 6:10 PM

Doesn't ketch translate to catch them. I think Shadowside is doing great! Look forward to joining return crew.
Don

- Gregory BurginJuly 15, 2016 at 7:53 PM

You are doing great Shadowside and crew! It was a tremendous feeling being on a container ship chugging across the Pacific from New Zealand, but I can't imagine what it is like out there on the Shadowside amongst all that vastness. Best wishes to all of you from Santiago, Chile! --Greg

Saturday, July 16, 2016

Day 6 and no flying fish

1:17am on 7/16. Our position is currently N 31.26 W 133.35. We are cruising along on a beam reach at 7.2 knots COG 251. Its been overcast and mild temperatures as we head toward the half way point. The moon tonight would occasionally make an appearance and shine a brilliant light on the otherwise black sea. Ill be excited when the clouds part and we have some sunshine and stars. We changed sail configuration a few times today to adapt to some shifty wind. We didn't fly the kite today and instead chose to continue with our downwind set of wing and wing. Shadowside is a heavy boat and takes the waves like a champ. She has a very sea kindly motion and all the crew are always excited for off watch hours to fall fast asleep, even in the middle of the day we sleep like babies. There is a radio hour everyday at 5:00 where all the boats in the fleet an check in and hear undated info and get the latest standings. Regrettably three boats have left our division which leaves only 4 boats to compete against. We are still listed at last place but not by a big margin AND these standings do not account for corrected time. So we have a chance of winning some accolades at the awards ceremony. The crew just keeps chugging along with our watch schedules and reminding each other to drink water and eat some snacks. I wouldn't want to be with a better group of people. Everyone is working together, and given that we are living in a space as big as most of your home kitchens, we are keeping our good humor and rallying together when we need to quickly respond to something happening on deck.

Kathy heard there was a revolution happening in Turkey, but other than that, we are oblivious to what is taking place on land. Our world revolves around the wind, waves and what to eat for dinner.

Until the next witching hour.

Kimber signing off

p.s. Respond to the blog. We really love hearing from you.



Comments:

- Ed Lynt July 16, 2016 at 5:48 AM

We're tuned in and watching your progress here on O dock and the BYC. Great show! Keep it rolling. Enjoy your media blackout: that sounds ideal in so many ways. I hope your starless sky shines bright with a billion tiny suns the rest of the way.

- riddlerandyJuly 16, 2016 at 7:14 AM

Keep up the great sailing, dolphins can't be far off. And is Ed is right, these days no news is good news. Aloha.

- AnonymousJuly 16, 2016 at 8:45 AM

Ahoy Shadowside! I agree with Ed and Randy - you are better off not knowing the news. Enjoy your ride. We are with you all in spirit. Kimber, you are doing an awesome job with the blog! We are ALL so proud of you four. Thank you for making the Skipper the happiest man on Earth and fulfilling a 20+ year dream with him. I love you all. - Burke

- Marilyn in SFJuly 16, 2016 at 10:08 AM

Aloha! (Time to start getting in that Aloha frame of mind!) I have to agree with the previous posts... y'all are better off without the news these days. Appreciate the rhythm of the seas, the wonderful fresh air and what sounds like a fabulous crew of four making, as Burke says, Lad's dream come true! Lad, I have to admit, after knowing you these past 37 years, I wasn't sure this dream of yours would ever come to fruition. I couldn't be happier for you. Here in my corner of San Francisco I am appreciating the sunshine and a lazy Saturday close to home. We have shared many stories over these years, and knowing you are out on that big Pacific brings joy to my heart that you cannot imagine. Enjoy the experience! Live aloha!

xoxoxo

Marilyn

- How's my hair?July 17, 2016 at 9:33 AM

Kimber! Oakland feels so quiet without you. Since you've been gone I've gotten much more sleep and am behaving way to good. Not sure how long I can keep this up. That's one lucky boat you got yourself on. Enjoy the open ocean.

Saturday, July 16, 2016

Adventures at Sea

It's wonderful to be on a boat where everything works! And if it breaks, Kimber, Alejandro, or Lad can fix it. I'm halfway decent at downwind driving, so I can keep the boat steady while they do what they need to do to set up the spinnaker, wing out the jib, trouble shoot one of two auto steering machines, or write blog posts. Lad makes navigation look easy (since the system was set up by Bill Myers, it is easy!) and we are on course for the partys in Kaneohe. Lad is great at team building and making sure we all get plenty of rest, food, and hydration, and that Shadowside is organized and clean. We are all loving sailing on a ketch--it track so well down wind, the motion is really comfortable (Kimber just said she hates the galley. That may be for any galley under way, so she's strapping in right now to the West Marine kitchen strap.) Fortunately, Alejandro is a chef so we have had iron chef meals from the great provisions organized by Donna. I do want to note that we made such good time the first day because Kimber and Alejandro were all over making the appropriate sail adjustments as conditions changed--reefing, furling, raising and lowering sails as needed in bumpy conditions. Thanks so much for all your comments. We love our ground crew! This is a dream come true for all of us, and it's great to listen to each other's stories on night watch and get to know each other. Cheers, Kathy



Comments:

- Anonymous July 16, 2016 at 10:10 PM

Kathy, what you wrote brought tears of gratitude and joy to my eyes. I am so happy that you all are having this experience together. BTW, Lad has told me you are 'way more than "half-way decent" at downwind driving! Thank you for keeping the blog up as we miss you all and love hearing about you! - Burke

- JANDY July 16, 2016 at 10:30 PM

Hello! Waggoners here. A note for Kimber. We are currently sitting by a crackling fire, waiting for it to die down before climbing into our huuuuge tent next to the sleeping girls. Today was a good one - a morning run with pili that painfully highlighted my age, swim class where both girls are making leaps and bounds, a "surf" at the Alameda beach and then straight up the hills to Chabot for a night of s'mores and sleeping bags. I start my new job on Monday and I'm pretty excited - my old team made a big poster for me and gave me a card and certificate to my fav restaurant, so...I guess they'll miss me. Feels good to have some validation, to be honest. Tomorrow I'm going to attempt to drive the heep at 45 mph to Sacramento for a baby shower. Wish me luck. Sending you tons of hugs.

- riddlerandy July 17, 2016 at 7:10 AM

Great update Kathy. Keep up the amazing sail, Fearless Foursome. And keep up the great blog posts.

- riddlerandy July 17, 2016 at 11:12 AM

And keep a close eye on that weather as you are approaching Hawaii

- DonVan July 17, 2016 at 6:43 PM

Loving the blog Kathy. Looking forward to reading it each morning. Are you flying the spinnaker yet ? I know photos take up a lot of bandwidth but would love to see one of crew, perhaps at a crew change time.

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mind the nachos!

We're all wondering when the sun is going to come out. It's been cloudy and overcast for days and nights now. Every so often the sun or moon will show themselves and we are washed in a brilliant light across the sea. But, even in the absence of the sun and stars, The Big P (Pacific Ocean) is so beautiful. We are currently on a down wind slot running with the main alone until watch change and we will set the jib up for wing on wing which should give us an extra knot of speed. Even while typing this in the nav station, I am being flung side to side with the pitch of each wave. These last few days we have all gotten a fair amount of bruises. Alejandro made nachos for lunch yesterday and they were amazing. While we were chowing down, and probably because we were cowering down, we jibed. "Mind the nachos!" I yelled. Cause, when at sea, you need to watch out for precious resources.

We are halfway and are going to celebrate today! We are also working on posting some pictures, but it's been low priority cause we are exhausted from this washing machine of a course we have been on for 24 hours. Ocean sailing is exhausting and at times down right hard. BUT BUT BUT...then you go sit in the cockpit and watch the waves and move across the sea with only the wind, literally in the middle of nowhere. It's serene, sublime and surreal, and worth every bruise and lost hour of sleep.

Comments:

- AdamJuly 18, 2016 at 9:32 AM

Hi there... I've been lurking on your blog since last Monday and have really appreciated the updates. As a fellow ketch sailor I'm totally rooting for you guys. Keep up the good work!

- Carol MaxwellJuly 18, 2016 at 9:59 AM

Glad to hear that you are celebrating!

- AnonymousJuly 18, 2016 at 10:02 AM

Ahoy Shadowside! Tomorrow is your skipper's birthday and I plan to send him a birthday email, hoping he has time to read it! I know this will be his BEST BIRTHDAY EVER! Sorry about the bruises, but it sounds as if they are worth it! Sail on, dear crew! Burke

- riddlerandyJuly 18, 2016 at 10:11 AM

Your mileage over the last several days has been remarkably consistent. I hope the seas settle down, and the stars come out, very soon. Congratulations in advance for reaching the halfway point.

- Lauren KnobelJuly 18, 2016 at 11:02 AM

We feel your pain, enjoy your bruise badges of glory because they truly are , celebrate and mind the cake (no pressure Alejandro)!!! Lauren and Mark

- AnonymousJuly 18, 2016 at 2:06 PM

Hello to all, particularly Kathy and husband of hers I haven't met yet, enjoying the updates and since yesterday's note didn't seem to post, glad to know what you eat since I was curious what your chef cooks for you. It's cold and overcast here in Alameda and Oakland, too. I'm sitting in my little office with the space heater on wondering if my kids are freezing to death at their first day of sailing camp. You're halfway there, that's fantastic! Keep up the good work and memory making. You're almost to Hawaii!!! Some of us losers are sitting in our offices drafting briefs and stressing about administrative law judges....Sincerely, Jennifer S.

- AdamJuly 18, 2016 at 2:15 PM

Hi there... I've been lurking on your blog since last Monday and have really appreciated the updates. As a fellow ketch sailor I'm totally rooting for you guys. Keep up the good work!

- riddlerandyJuly 18, 2016 at 2:30 PM

You got 'em where you want them, time to make your move.

- DonVanJuly 19, 2016 at 9:20 AM

Another great blog post...

- riddlerandyJuly 19, 2016 at 9:23 AM

Congratulations on reaching the half-way mark! How were the ribs?

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

Favorite Bill Murray movie

7/19 Our halfway party was dinner with ribs, chips, and champagne. We toasted to a 1000 miles of sweet sailing and 1000 more to the finish. Hawaii is really far away. The weather continues to be overcast and a few squalls have blown through, but nothing too dramatic. We have all gotten into our watch routines and can shorten sails at a moments notice. Jorge, our Hydrovane self steering system is my favorite thing on the boat. Alejandro and Kathy like to hand steer on their watch. I prefer to snack. Living in a small sailboat with strangers you run the gamut of conversation topics. We have gone through all "best of" or "favorite fill in the blank" questions. I wouldn't want to be with a different bunch of rag tag crew. Kathy is hysterical with crazy travel and sailing stories and ALejandro continues to be the international man of mystery and is our go to guy when we need any help with anything. Captain is calm and good humored even when we accidentally gibe the main violently. We are looking out for j and having fun.

Shadowside is chugging along on a 255 COG at 7.0 knots over ground. She is a sturdy, heavy boat and I feel really safe when the wind picks up. The seas have been 10-12 rollers that toss the boat 30 degrees to port and then back to starboard, sometimes so steeply that my stomach drops. The rest of the fleet seems to be much farther North than us, but we are making good time and might even rank!

comments:

- AnonymousJuly 19, 2016 at 1:50 PM

Happy birthday, Skipper! The reading for today in the sailor's daily reading book Gail gave us is from an old Hanseatic proverb (?) "Navigation is essential; life is not." Hmmmm. I hope you have a wonderful birthday. I miss you an awful lot. - Love you, Burke

- riddlerandyJuly 19, 2016 at 5:20 PM

Happy Birthday Lad, and greetings to all the crew. You will be there before you know it. Get plenty of rest, and I hope you wake up to tropical winds.

- Cara JonesJuly 19, 2016 at 6:10 PM

Glad to hear things are going well. Hopefully the bruising course you have been on is over. Reading all the ships blogs sound like it has been an interesting journey.

Cant wait to hear all your stories. Hi from Gail and Guy!

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

Best Day Ever

I think we are figuring out sail trim on a ketch; George, the windvane auto pilot is treating us really well (he even steer us through squalls); and we are still on course. The sun came out today, there may be stars tonight! So far we have had only one clear night, and a few nights where the moon peeks through dramatic clouds creating spots of light on the ocean.

Thanks again for all the encouragement, especially from you office bound ones. There's no place else any of us would rather be. All systems continue to be highly functional and if there is any "break-down" the crew is so skilled we get the thing problem solved and fixed within about a half an hour. We hot wired the engine to get it started. We recarpentered a bunk shelf this afternoon.

We have cleaned everything on the boat but ourselves; it's been a bit cloudy until today, when we started sailing without our foulies, even when it's raining. And we love the rain! Shadowside handles high winds (25 to 30 knots is the most we encountered) like a champ, with a real easy, rolling motion.

Tonight or tommorow, sun showers!

Comments:

- DonVanJuly 19, 2016 at 8:52 PM

For some reason I stopped getting the blog by email, so at the end of the day I was a little concerned that I did not see the daily post and sent a text to the Delorme inreach. Sorry about that Bill. I will go directly to the web from now on. Good that you have taken off the follies.

- cassieJuly 22, 2016 at 1:21 PM

so awesome to hear about it!! thanks for posting updates! can't wait to hear more in person...

Wednesday, July 20, 2016

If this isn't nice I dont know what is

Today was great. The sun came out with blue sky, and the Big P was a deep crystal azure. The winds were favorable 20knts and we sailed the entire day wing n wing clogging along t 7-8 knot. Jorge did his job and kept us on course, while we talked about movies and conspiracy theories and traveling in Tokyo. Did you know we didn't actually ever land on the moon AND that octopus are smarter than a 5th grader?

Today was captain Lad's bday, which we somehow overlooked his wife's hints to alert us. We were able to gather some items together and have a nice time out in the cockpit just before sunset. The moon and stars also appeared. Kathy and I watched the full bright moon dip and dive behind clouds in a dramatic fashion. Mars is visible too. This is the Pacific Ocean night sky I've been waiting for! A squall blew through and knocked Kathy and I out of our moon daze, Winds picked up to 33 knots and we had full main and headsail flying. It was a hairy few minutes but the boat and crew are fine. The squalls will be occurring with regularity the closer we get to Hawaii. Did I mention Hawaii is far? Its is the most remote chain of islands ON EARTH I am told. Farther away from land than any other islands. We are more than halfway, and can see the finish line approaching here in just a few days. Stay tuned in. And for those of you leaving comments, we love them but cannot respond back. But keep cheering us on and saying hi, we love it.

I'm going to go back on my 2am watch now and look at the night sky in the middle of the ocean. If this isn't nice....

Comments:

- UnknownJuly 20, 2016 at 7:40 AM

Shadowside Captain and Crew,

Great to hear of your progress! Sounds like you have made it to the fun part. Be safe and enjoy the rest of the trip - All of us at Coyote Point are keeping tabs on your progress and wishing you well.

Your dock mate

Mark Bettis

S/V Shannon

- JANDYJuly 20, 2016 at 8:22 AM

What a beautiful post! So happy to hear you guys are safe and having fun. Dover wants to leave a message for you: I love you Auntie Kimbie. I hope you have fun on your trip.

We are heading to school/work today per usual. We went camping last weekend and used your stove. Apparently we love camping. We love you, keep up the updates. We will be reading them!

PS: I didn't drive the jeep to Sacramento. Don't worry.

- AnonymousJuly 20, 2016 at 9:06 AM

Thank you for giving the Skipper the most memorable birthday ever! Your blog entries are pure poetry, Kimber. I appreciate your taking us all along with you. Glad you are seeing some sun and clear night skies. Enjoy the rest of your journey. Aloha!

- Nancy IsenburgJuly 20, 2016 at 11:28 AM

Happy Birthday, Admiral! Oops ... I meant Captain. Couldn't imagine a more perfect place and endeavor for you to enjoy that this journey. A lifelong dream spent with a great crew. Perfect!

- riddlerandyJuly 20, 2016 at 1:06 PM

Woohoo, under 800 miles to go. And I think you have moved up a couple of spots overall. Keep an eye on that weather your last couple of days into Hawaii, looks kind of unsettled. Aloha.

- riddlerandyJuly 20, 2016 at 6:47 PM

New Pac Cup Record: "Strong winds propelled Manouch Moshayedi's super maxi Rio 100 across the Pacific to set a new Pacific Cup Fastest Passage record. Crossing the finish at 13:51:13 local Hawaii time (15:51:13 PDT). With an elapsed time of 5 days, 3 hours, 41 mins and 13 seconds, Rio 100 knocked two hours off the record set in 2004 by Robert Miller, whose 139-foot Mari Cha IV finished with an elapsed time of 5 days, 5 hours, 38 minutes and 10 seconds."

Thursday, July 21, 2016

“No one will ever believe you”

Bill Murray walks into a diner, takes a fry off a guys plate and says “no one will ever believe you”. That’s the theme of tonight’s blog. Shadowside is perfectly balance right now. We have her rigged with a reefed main and jib and the wind is directly aft of us propelling us down waves at great speed. Squalls have been blowing through and we even reached 9.5 over ground! We have a little more than 700 miles yet to go and a small storm to the south of us we are keeping our eyes on. Alejandro and I dragged our legs off the starboard side of the bow today and let our feet get hit by waves. We giggled every time they got us. The water was blue and perfect and I got hit by a flying fish. We are still currently last in our division, but we’re hoping that because we are sailing one of the slowest heaviest boats in the fleet, that we will still rank on corrected tie. The faster boats are cruising ahead of us, but if we keep chugging along, we still have a shot to rank. Regardless, we are having fun and enjoying some great sailing. Jorge is doing 90% of the steering now, as he actually is more accurate than we are. The wind vane is a remarkable piece of technology. It uses the wind to transfer energy to direct and steer a rudder hung off the transom of the boat. It uses zero electricity and can steer 24/7 forever. We love Jorge. He allows us to eat lunch and attend to other things, like, well, sitting in the cockpit and talking about what other movies Sally Field been in recently.

Ok folks, I hope everything is good out there in the real world. I know we are excited to be able to talk to our loved ones soon, but also reluctant to enter back into the real world. We have zero idea what is happening outside of this boat. Our lives revolve around wind, waves and gps coordinates. Oh, and Bill Murray came aboard and stole a fry.

Comments:

• riddlerandy July 21, 2016 at 6:56 AM

Well, according to the most recent tracker map (as of 0600), you are in first place in your division. Keep up the great work.

• riddlerandy July 21, 2016 at 7:33 AM

Should have taken a screenshot . . .

• Anonymous July 21, 2016 at 8:50 AM

Good morning Shadowside! I am so glad that the Hydrovane has proved such a success. While unnamed, Jorge has been a bit of a legend in the Burgin household (ask Lad!). How wonderful that you are seeing flying fish! Sail on and enjoy! - Burke

• Lauren Knobel July 21, 2016 at 9:15 AM

Now it sounds like you’re having fun! lots of drama for everyone out there, perhaps one of the most challenging races with heavy wind and waves, grateful you’re on a sturdy ketch and enjoying yourselves. Everybody else is tired and just wants to finish it at this point according to their bruises and blogs! After all, it will be over before you know it and you’ll be drinking Mai Tais and eating fries!

- Lauren KnobelJuly 21, 2016 at 9:18 AM

PS kathy, there's a movement on Facebook about chic sail -pac cup 2018!! Hmmmmmmmm!

- Cara JonesJuly 21, 2016 at 10:26 AM

Keep your eyes on Darby!Stay out of her path. Keep the posts coming so we know all is well.
Kimber this is your moms gmail alias.
Glad you are on that sturdy ketch.
Luv ya.....Mom

- riddlerandyJuly 21, 2016 at 10:46 AM

Hopefully they slide south of it Tuesday . . .

- riddlerandyJuly 21, 2016 at 11:31 AM

Weather: <https://pacificcup.org/article/july-21-update-tropical-depression-darby>

- AnonymousJuly 21, 2016 at 1:58 PM

Hello Shadowside, since you are a tad out of touch with reality are you aware that a phenomenon called Pokemon Go has taken over the world? If not, you might need to know that millions of human zombies are walking around the world staring at their cell phones trying to catch pokemon in AR. I am a luddite but it stands for augmented reality (according to google) and I think that means you can catch lots of pokemon in the ocean, too. So maybe you should see if you can find a magikarp or some other water element pokemon! Anyone under the age of 12 can explain this much better than I am doing. And it would be a fun team building experience for your group. Assuming, of course, you get service in the middle of the ocean?

Okay, here's a private note to Kathy: dear kathy, want to hear what happened in my hearing on Tuesday? Summary: Judge: so what is her physical residual function capacity? ME: medium Judge: well if you say medium she must have some restrictions. ME: well she's a woman so she can't lift heavy things.

I'm still collecting pieces of my brain that exploded.

And my brain also exploded when I *LOST* my appeal on that parking ticket! So I need you back soon, okay? Thanks! Jen S.

Oh, sailors, one last thing: after two days of sailing camp, my 10 year old complained of severe neck pain yesterday morning. So bad she didn't go to camp! And she loves sailing. So I'm guessing it's a combination of having your head turned in one direction while you sail a boat (no Jorges for the ACSC group) and playing Pokemon Go. Really, these kids become zombies. But I enjoyed listening to my girls talking in their room last night about how much they like capsizing. I don't think this is a good thing, is it? One kid was saying how much she loves to capsize and sit on the bottom of the boat. Is something wrong with them? Should you all have a therapy session with them when you return? Much obliged....from a warmer day in Oakland, signing off.....

- Ed LyntJuly 22, 2016 at 1:24 PM

Moms have many, many secrets and aliases are need to know basis. Proceed with caution: Sometimes after you are granted clearance for the need to know the knowledge of the now known becomes the issue, but knowledge now known can't be unknown, ya know? I recommend Mai Tais and forgetting the whole question in the first place.

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Lad's Birthday Shadowside Pac Cup Limerick
There was a young sailor named Lad
Who wanted the best to be had.
His crew must be limber--
So soon he found Kimber--
Which made all the other boats mad!

Alejandro was loyal and true,
Add to that he could cook and could crew.
He signed up on the ketch,
Found how quick she could fetch,
And away to the galley he flew.

Kathy preferred to just drive.
When asleep, was she dead or alive?
She woke up at the wheel
And steadied the heel
Through numerous Shadowside jibes.

This crew drove her fast through the ocean.
Not distressed, not at all, by her motion.
She rocked them to sleep
With the minimum creak
All happy that Lad had the notion.

Kathy

Comments:

- Lauren KnobelJuly 21, 2016 at 5:39 PM

Hauoli La Hanau LAD!

- AnonymousJuly 21, 2016 at 6:08 PM

OMG, this limerick is the best ever! You are so creative. Some (?) would say that Lad had more than a notion - some (?) would say he's had an obsession, but never mind! I love your posts. Makes the waiting easier here on shore. Thank you! - Burke

- Bill WJuly 21, 2016 at 8:04 PM

Bravo Shadowside! From a Tiki J shore crew member

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Darnit Darby!!!

Ok friends and family. Thank you for your concern for us and looking out as tropical Storm Darby is messing up our Mai Tai plans. Rest assured that we are taking precautions. The Pacific Cup staff has been in great communication with all boats and we are receiving regular weather updates. Currently Shadowside is slowing down. We have put double reef in the mainsail and shortened the jib. This will make us slow down and also ready us for any nasty squalls during the night that Darby is spitting our way. There will be more info on the Pac Cup website, but know that all boats are taking precautions and we will resume the race as soon as it is safe to do so. Shadowside might be the ONLY full keeled battle ax of a bat in the entire fleet. All of the reasons we are the slowest boat in the race, also make us the safest in storm conditions. Everyone on board has sailed and trained for storms just like this. We are prepared and will stay safe. I will update the blog twice a day so you will know how we are doing. As of now, we just ate quesadillas and im going to take a nap...so everything is groovy out here in the deep blue. In other news...Mom, why do you need an "alias" who is carol?

Ciao

Comments

- riddlerandyJuly 22, 2016 at 7:06 AM

Good plan, glad to hear it. I know you have plenty of food, so no rush. Get some rest, swap some more stories, and be safe. Aloha.

- Mark BJuly 22, 2016 at 7:41 AM

We are all watching the weather and sending you all the best possible juju. Glad you are being conservative sailors, and happy your boat is built the way she is! Best of luck, and safe travels!

Mark Bettis
S/V Shannon

- AnonymousJuly 22, 2016 at 8:02 AM

Thank you, Kimber for keeping us posted. Glad you all are on Shadowside. She's a fine ship. Stay safe and keep your sense of humor. You made me laugh out loud! I love you, Skipper - Burke

- Marilyn in SFJuly 22, 2016 at 8:35 AM

Just looked at the wind map and it seems to me Darby is finally fading and sliding more south. By now I imagine you are getting ready for that final downwind ride into Kaneohe! How I love Kaneohe! Back in the day, the SF Bay Cal-20 fleet had team races every year against the Hawaii Cal-20 fleet; one year in SF Bay and the next in Kaneohe. What a great spot to race, to sail, to play! Kaneohe is your reward for all this wonderful hard work, sailing across the big Pacific. Aloha!

Friday, July 22, 2016

These cookies are making me thirsty

N25.36 W148.45 We've have been redirected by the race committee to a way point that is 100 miles away from the storm. All boats that are close enough to get to Hawaii by Saturday are safe to cross in front of Darby, all other boats still racing will proceed with caution and head toward Hawaii Sunday morning. This will make our eta into Hawaii Wednesday morning. The communication boat "Rapture" has been giving us regular weather updates.

The crew is a little tired after a rocky night SLOWLY bobbing around in the ocean. The moon was incredible and the stars were twinkling. We woke up this morning with a beautiful sunrise and very mild conditions. We are headed to the way point and will catch up on sleep and start counting down the days till mai tais. We are safe and in the cockpit making Seinfeld jokes per usual. All is well. Hawaii is far.

Comments:

- riddlerandyJuly 22, 2016 at 10:19 AM

Best of luck guys. Hang in there. Think mai tais.

- Cara JonesJuly 22, 2016 at 12:03 PM

Glad to hear all is well.....yes Hawaii is far. What a journey. I hope you don't miss All race parties!

Saturday, July 23, 2016

Darby blarby

Welp, no evidence of any tropical storm that we can see out here 495 miles away from the Islands. Actually the closer we have gotten, the calmer the conditions. Currently we are cruising at a conservative 6 knots with a reefed main and jib. We could easily be carrying more canvas but we are not racing as fast as we can towards Hawaii and planning on letting the storm pass until we enter the 120 mile safety zone. The strong winds are not the only concern, its the sea state that can last a few days after the storm passes. And big swell in Hawaii means BIG SWELL. This place invented the big swell. So we are playing it by ear and getting all weather info we can. Fortunately we are a very slow boat, so there is no rush, even if we wanted.

In other news, the night sky tonight is marked as one of my all time favorites. Kathy and I dimmed the instrument lights and were speechless. It was so dark we couldnt see the front of the boat as we sailed into sheer blackness. There is nothing to hit out here in the middle of the ocean, so on night watches you basically just stare into the night and make sure the wind doesnt shift too rapidly. Is become warmer as we head south and we no longer need our foulies. Once this dumb storm gets out of our way, we will be able to see land again. Its going to be weird to stand on terra firma again. My body is so used to lurching and being thrown around.

Saturday, July 23, 2016

Circling the runway

We are still in a holding pattern. Its not a bad place to be stuck, in the middle of the most beautiful blue sky and ocean. The trades winds are gently taking us toward Hawaii but our sails are reefed and we are limping along at 5 knots. There will be a weather briefing tonight at 8:00 and we should know then if we are allowed to continue on. At our current rate, we wont be making landfall until Tuesday morning anyhow. So unless Darby decides to stick around longer than expected, we will be taking shower and drinking mai tais on Tuesday.

It has gotten hot here and we are going to try and rig some shade on deck for the watch crew. Its also hard to sleep below during the day, so by the time we get to land I suspect this crew will be all tuckered out and sun kissed.

In the meantime, its great sailing weather and life is good.

Sunday, July 24, 2016

star light star bright

Sailing is an addiction and everyone on this boat is an addict. There is no other way to explain cramming yourself into close quarters with perfect strangers, subjecting your body to gashes and bruises and the occassional scalding as you try to drink coffee in between wave sets (I dont think anyone has been able to successfully drink a cup yet. But for those of us who are weak to this vice, there is nothing better than the dreamy trade winds and a starry night sky. With all of this talk of a storm raging on the Islands, there is a small sailboat slowly drifting towards its destination, safely out of reach of Darby. We are calmly bobbing through the night. Captain just came on night watch, we let him sleep an hour extra. We are all tired and ready to see land, but in the meantime we are enjoying the less than dramatic weather. Alejandro just came down to tell me the moon is rising.

Jimmy Buffet gets it

"I wrote a note said be back in a minute,
bought a boat and I sailed off in it, don't think anybody is going to miss me anyway.
Mind on a permanent vacation, the ocean is my only medication, wishing my condition wont
ever go away."

Let me elaborate on my previous blog post where I described sailing as an addiction. My mother "carol" recently commented on how hard it seems out here at sea. And indeed, traveling in a small slow sailboat across the biggest ocean on the planet is not for everyone. BUT, for those of you out there reading this blog (ed lynt...) and others, can attest to the absolute thrill of it all. Why else would the sea call to so many generations of writers and poets and adventurers? I myself do find it taxing, both physically and emotionally, but the rewards far out weigh the hardships. At sea your world is shrunken into basic survival. The rigors of the deck watch routine keep a pace at sea that makes sense out of an otherwise chaotic situation. The constant sea state change and wind shifts make the "work" of sailing interesting and passes the hours. You literally sit for hours and hours and watch the sea birds and waves. Passing the time talking to your crew mates about philosophy, conspiracy theories and your favorite Seinfeld episode..

The clouds offer their own set of entertainment. And I cant go on enough about the night sky. If all of you who are suspect of this obsession, I can promise you, that one starry night sky as the boat rocks back and forth sailing into the darkness, with no sound except the wind and the wake of the boat would make you a convert. And then there is the simple pact that sailors have between each other. We are a boat full of strangers who just met to make this trip, but lifelong friendships have been made. The comraderie that exists between sailors is a bond that can only be understood standing in a yacht club bar after a long passage has been made and the fleet all safely at port. Shadowside hopes to be at the bar soon enough. Our landfall is expected to be early tuesday morning.

Comments:

- AnonymousJuly 24, 2016 at 6:39 PM

You put that so beautifully...and, yet, maybe if I could be dropped on board for one of those magnificent nights...but alas, I guess we aren't all cut out for life at sea on a sailboat. However, I am glad that you 4 are! What a trip! - Burke

- riddlerandyJuly 24, 2016 at 7:41 PM

You guys are finishing strong. Enjoy your last hours on the Pacific.

- JANDYJuly 24, 2016 at 8:46 PM

I can't believe you're almost there! Holy cow. Sorry we have been out of touch. Three of us came down with a nasty virus called hand-foot-mouth disease (I feel like cattle), Andy is so-far spared but I'm betting he won't escape unscathed. Add to that my first week on the job and the CPUC delivered a crazy-ass huge proposed decision that we had to react to, and I'm completely exhausted. I'm at OAK heading to San Diego tonight to meet us with the other utilities and negotiate positions, it's going to be a long week. I'll be on San Diego cheering you on when you arrive!! You've always been safe, so I never doubted that you'd do everything in your control to stay safe, and I'm happy to hear your sailing has been uneventful. So weird that you're all the way out there, I can't wait to hear if you ever saw anything alive. Besides your crew mates. I love you and miss you. Send me a note when you hit land. xoxo.

- Lauren KnobelJuly 24, 2016 at 11:56 PM

There are cowboy poets and sailor poets -that's where the lore comes from , mark and I send our aloha from BYC on your achievement of life's lessons shared and learned !

- Lauren KnobelJuly 24, 2016 at 11:56 PM

There are cowboy poets and sailor poets -that's where the lore comes from , mark and I send our aloha from BYC on your achievement of life's lessons shared and learned !

- DonVanJuly 25, 2016 at 8:16 AM

Steinbeck could not have written a better description of the allure of sailing
Don Van

- AnonymousJuly 25, 2016 at 9:58 AM

Amazing to think I was dining with Kathy just two weeks before you departed and now the same amount of time has passed and you're nearly to Hawaii! Oh, how I would so much rather be in Hawaii than my office right now. Sun and warm weather has returned to the East Bay. It was REALLY hot this week-end! On Friday I went out to ACSC to see what exactly this addiction is about. And what I saw were tons of little things that looked to me like bath tubs with sails floating out in the Bay. And kids just having a blast as they worked their way slowly, slowly, slowly to try to get out past the USS Hornet. So if you think it takes a long time to get to Hawaii, imagine being in a bath tub trying to get from shore past the Hornet. Too long for this mom to stick around and see if they made it (kids claimed they did, no referees to verify).

Otherwise the Pokemon Go craze continues in the world...people have fallen off cliffs and gotten stuck in trees chasing these cartoonish figures I cannot pronounce....and soon as you're drinking your mai tais you'll see zombies and go "oh, that's what that blog commenter was talking about." Enjoy your last day at sea, best of luck with your sea legs and have fun in Hawaii. Sincerely, Jennifer S.

- Carol MaxwellJuly 25, 2016 at 10:08 AM

From the other 'Carol' - Last Day! Take Great photos. Pegs just realized what is going on. Maxwells are a little late to the game. Been answering crazy text messages from her all morning!

- Nancy IsenburgJuly 25, 2016 at 10:26 AM

It is easy for the less-unaffected to see addiction, where Passion is at play. The adventure of a lifetime requires that passion, and the understanding that just because something is difficult or dangerous doesn't mean it is any less worthwhile. Your exciting voyage resonates with many who are in love with the sea, and travel with you "in spirit". Sail on!

- riddlerandyJuly 25, 2016 at 4:05 PM

Wow, 15 hours or so to go. Amazing job. Enjoy your last evening of endless stars. Look forward to talking with you Kathy.

- WayneJuly 25, 2016 at 6:32 PM

Home stretch. Need a crew member for next adventure? Enjoyed your blog. Peaceful. Poetic. Stars. Ethereal.

Wayne



Hello Hawaii

Tuesday, July 26, 2016



Arriving at Kaneohe Bay



Mission Accomplished



Crew Reunited on the dock at KYC

Happy to be here.

