January 1, 2010

Dear SSS Sailors,

Welcome to the 2010 season. This is your invitation to join SSS for another enjoyable year of shorthanded sailing. The race dates are set, the sailing instructions are posted, and your officers are ready to make sure this year is exciting and rewarding for you. We know you'll want to participate in all of this year's events, so make it easy on yourself (and on us) by joining up for the entire season.

The 2010 season includes three ocean races and five that stay inside the Gate. There is something for everyone from the novice to the experienced trans-oceanic solo sailor. The season starts with the fun yet challenging Three Bridge Fiasco, peaks in the middle with the longest singlehanded ocean race in North America, the Singlehanded TransPac's, and ends with the typically mellow Vallejo 1-2.

The Board strives to classify the boats in each race as fairly as possible but recognizes that any system that makes it possible to race different boat designs against each other is, at best, a compromise. We continue to offer the non-spinnaker Class 5 which is designed to appeal to novices in shorthanded sailing and to people who just want to have a more relaxed sail.

There are some changes in the 2010 Racing Rules and we have made some changes in our races. Read the sailing instructions carefully even if you've raced with us many times.

Most SSS meetings are held at the Oakland Yacht Club. Thank you to the Bay Area Yacht Clubs who assist us in our programs: the Oakland YC, the Corinthian YC, the Golden Gate YC, the Richmond YC, the Vallejo YC, and the Half Moon Bay YC. Without the use of their race decks, committee boats, and other facilities there would be no program for you to compete in. Please remember to thank them.

Last year, we made the leap to on-line registration for races and membership. As with any transition, there were some problems but overall it worked pretty well. In any event, we won't let this change stop anyone from racing as long as they register before the registration deadline. If anyone finds it impossible to use the on-line system, contact us before the registration deadline and we'll do our best to help you get to the starting line.

The SSS Web page www.sfbaysss.org provides you with information, links, late notices about events, and of course race results. It also has a direct link to the SSS forums on www.sfbaysss.net/index.php.

Your SSS Officers for 2010 are:

Commodore - Bill Merrick, 415-331-8820- SSSCommodore@aol.com
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Website Editor – Matt Beall - matt@lucasey.com
Treasurer – Steve Hill - shill@tfcinc.com

The success of SSS over the years is a result of the efforts of members and individuals who step up to work on committees, events, and races. If you decide to sit out a race, give Scott or Jonathan a call: we can always use an extra person on the race deck. If you have a sailing experience you would like to share, post it on the Forum; we would all like to read about it. Even better, why not give a presentation at one of our meetings. Did you snap some photos during the last race? Let's get them up on the website. If you have ideas to make the SSS better, give any of us a call – we will listen.

Clean your bottom, trim your sails and have fun.

-- The 2010 SSS Board