



ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES 2009



NOTICE OF RACE
San Francisco, CA, USA
September 10-13, 2009



St. Francis Yacht Club



ROLEX



ROLEX WATCH U.S.A., INC.
665 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022
Tel. 212-758-7700

Allen Brill
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Competitors:

As the Rolex Big Boat Series celebrates its 45th running this year, Rolex is especially delighted to welcome sailors from around the U.S. and abroad for four days of unparalleled competition and spirited camaraderie on San Francisco Bay.

Since its founding, the St. Francis Yacht Club has been known as a leader in providing quality competition and for setting the standard for international regatta management. As one of the world's premier regattas, the St. Francis Yacht Club's Rolex Big Boat Series offers some of yachting's most challenging conditions.

This year we have the distinct pleasure of bringing the Rolex US-IRC National Championship to the Rolex Big Boat Series. This will be the first time that the national championship will be contested on the West Coast.

Rolex looks forward to greeting you – skippers, your families and your crew – in September and together celebrating the success of the 2009 Rolex Big Boat Series.

Until then, fair winds and great sailing!

Cordially,

Allen Brill
President & CEO
Rolex Watch U.S.A.

Athens . Bangkok . Beverly Hills . Brussels . Buenos Aires . Caracas . Cologne . Dallas . Geneva . Hong Kong . Jakarta . Johannesburg
Kuala Lumpur . London . Madrid . Manila . Melbourne . Mexico City . Milan . Mumbai . New York . Paris
São Paulo . Seoul . Singapore . Taipei . Tokyo . Toronto



April 1, 2009

Dear Big Boat Invitee:

On behalf of the members, officers, and directors of the St. Francis Yacht Club it is my pleasure to invite you and your crew to participate in the 45th annual St. Francis Perpetual Trophy Regatta, known as the Rolex Big Boat Series, to be held September 10th -13th, 2009.

Thanks to our presenting sponsor, Rolex Watch, U.S.A., social events with live entertainment are planned each night beginning with a Rolex Commodore's Reception on Wednesday evening, September 9th. Racing for all classes will commence on Thursday, September 10th and continue through Sunday, September 13th. Rolex has again generously donated watches for the winners of the St. Francis Perpetual Trophy, the City of San Francisco Trophy, the Atlantic Perpetual Trophy, the Keefe-Kilborn Memorial Trophy, the Richard Rheem Perpetual Trophy, and the Commodore's Perpetual Trophy. Classes that will be racing for these perpetual trophies and watches will be announced at the Rolex Commodore's Reception. We will hold the Awards Ceremony after the last race on Sunday.

The enclosed Notice of Race describes the particulars of the 2009 event. Please complete the online registration form at www.stfyc.com as soon as possible to receive more information on the event. If you are planning to race in the IRC handicap divisions and have any questions about obtaining a certificate and / or information regarding the IRC rating system, please reference www.us-irc.org. This website is very informative, and if you have further inquiries, it has contact information for the Official US Rating Office. Please get your applications for a measurement certificate in early to ensure that you will have the process completed by the deadline: <http://www.ussailing.org/offshore/IRC/#applicprocess>.

Berthing at the St. Francis Yacht Club will be available at no charge at assigned locations starting on Monday, September 7th. Please make alternate arrangements for berthing before this date. Thank you for your cooperation.

An invitation is also extended to all men to attend the annual Tinsley Island Stag Cruise, which will be held September 24th - 27th, 2009. If you need further information for either the regatta or cruise, please contact the St. Francis Yacht Club Race Office at 415-563-6363 or raceoffice@stfyc.com. We look forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

John R. McNeill
Commodore
St. Francis Yacht Club



► RULES

1.1 This regatta will be governed by the Rules as defined by the Racing Rules of Sailing, the Prescriptions of US SAILING and the Deeds of Gift for the following trophies: St. Francis Perpetual, the City of San Francisco Perpetual, the Atlantic Perpetual, the Keefe-Kilborn Perpetual, the Richard Rheem Perpetual and the Commodore's Perpetual. The 2009 US IRC National Championship trophy will also be awarded. For Handicap Divisions: An IRC endorsed certificate is required and the IRC Rules, Parts 1, 2, and 3 shall apply. Yachts shall submit a copy of their IRC endorsed certificate not later than August 31st, 2009. No alteration in a yacht's TCC will be permitted after this date, with the following exceptions: as a rating protest, to correct Rating Office errors, or with prior written permission of the Organizing Authority (to be granted only in extreme circumstances with an accompanying \$500 fee). For One-Design Divisions: the respective class rules will apply, except for J/105 Fleet One Class rules and J/120 Fleet Five Class rules, which will replace the National Association Class Rules. The St. Francis Yacht Club is the Organizing Authority.

1.2 RRS 40.1 will be changed as follows: All competitors are required to wear a Life Jacket or other adequate personal flotation device while racing.

1.3 IRC Crew Limitations: Either a boat's maximum total crew number shall not exceed the Crew Number printed on her certificate, OR the maximum total crew weight shall not exceed the product of the Crew Number printed on the boat's certificate multiplied by 180 pounds. Crew weigh-ins are not required for IRC entries, but IRC Crew Limitations may be subject to protest.

1.4 IRC Sail Limitations: For the purpose of IRC Rules 26.1.5(d) and (e) this regatta is on consecutive days and the sails carried shall remain the same.

► ADVERTISING

2.1 Advertising for timepieces other than for Rolex, our title sponsor, is strongly discouraged.

2.2 All boats shall display the event bow stickers on their bow while racing.

► ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

Participation in this event is by invitation only. Competitors may apply for entry online at www.stfyc.com. Entries will be notified of their acceptance by the Race Office.

► FEES

Entry Fee: \$15 per foot of overall boat length, rounded up to the nearest foot. All checks must be in US DOLLARS drawn on a US BANK and made payable to: St. Francis Yacht Club. Fees listed below expire on Monday, August 31st, 2009 for all entries. After that date, an additional \$250 late fee will apply. There are no exceptions to the late fee. All guests must obtain a guest pass in order to gain access to the Club throughout the week. Each crew member will receive a competitor badge, as well as one complimentary guest pass. Additional guest passes may be purchased during registration.

► CLASS DIVISIONS

Entrants will be divided into two groupings as follows: One Design Racing: J/120, Sydney 38, Melges 32, Express 37, One Design 35, J/105, Farr 40, Beneteau 36.7. IRC Handicap Racing: Yachts 35' LOA and above will be divided into divisions at the discretion of the Organizing Authority.

A minimum of 6 boats per class will be required for a class start. If 6 boats per class are not entered by the entry deadline of August 31st, the entered boats may be assigned to a handicap division if they hold a valid IRC endorsed certificate, or may not be eligible to race at the discretion of the Organizing Authority. Additional classes may be added at the discretion of the Organizing Authority.

► RACING AREA

Windward/Leeward Race Courses will be set on central San Francisco Bay and its approaches.

► SCORING

Each boat's series score will be the sum of her scores for all races.

The 2009 US IRC National Champion shall be determined as follows:

The combined average corrected seconds per mile for all races completed will be calculated and the boat with the lowest combined average corrected seconds per mile is the Champion. Only the winner of each IRC class will be eligible for the overall IRC National Championship trophy.

► PRIZES

Trophies will be awarded based on fleet participation.

► BERTHING & TRAILER STORAGE

All yachts competing in the event may be moored free of charge at pre-assigned locations beginning on Monday, September 7th until one night after racing concludes. If you plan on keeping a storage trailer in the City parking lot, please contact the Race Office in person or at 415-563-6363 for an overnight parking permit. Trailers without permits may be towed.

► FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the StFYC Race Office at 415-563-6363, visit www.stfyc.com, or email race@stfyc.com.

REGATTA SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 9

- 1000 - 1900 Registration & Check-In
- 1730 Skipper's Meeting
- 1800 - 1930 Rolex Commodore's Reception

Thursday, September 10

- 1100 Racing Begins - Two Races Scheduled
- 1700 - 2000 Rolex Party

Friday, September 11

- 1100 Racing Begins - Two Races Scheduled
- 1700 - 1830 Mt. Gay Cocktail Party

Saturday, September 12

- 1100 Racing Begins - Two Races Scheduled
- 1630 - 1730 No-Host Cocktails
- 1930 Crew Dinner (Sign-up at Registration & Check-In)

Sunday, September 13

- 1100 Racing Begins - Bay Tour Race Scheduled
- 1600 Rolex Trophy Ceremony





St. Francis Yacht Club

ABOUT ST. FRANCIS YACHT CLUB

Founded in 1927, the St. Francis Yacht Club is steeped in over 80 years of yachting and racing traditions. From the start, the St. Francis Yacht Club's membership roster has included many of the Bay Area's most prominent citizens and greatest sailors. Early racers for the St. Francis included such champions as L.A. Norris, Mark Fontana, Myron Spaulding, Arthur Rousseau, Painless Parker and Lester Stone. Today, it is names like Paul Cayard, John Kosteki, John Bertrand, Stan Honey, Morgan Larson, Russ Silvestri, Zach Railey and Austin Sperry who continue to keep the St. Francis name in the forefront of world-class sailing.

The annual regatta schedule at the St. Francis is one of the most aggressive regatta calendars in the world. Part of the attraction of racing at St. Francis Yacht Club is the excellent and challenging racing conditions unique to San Francisco Bay. Both physically beautiful and naturally demanding, the Bay provides a racer with the ultimate in wind, current and weather conditions for truly competitive, exciting sailing. With the skyline of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge as a backdrop, the St. Francis Yacht Club prides itself on being able to provide all visitors with every comfort and amenity while dazzling them with their surroundings.

ABOUT THE ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES

The Big Boat Series has witnessed the "glory days" of SORC and IOR; over the years, it has accommodated the inclusion of Maxis, Sleds, and the notorious six-meter fleet. This event has marked the end of the S&S era and the explosion of one-design classes. It survived the 80's ups and downs, and it soared in numbers of entries in the nineties to reach 111 entries in 2008. In 1990 the series was shortened from its previous week-long format to its current schedule of seven races over four days. The St. Francis Perpetual Trophy Regatta – Rolex Big Boat Series – is known as the premier West Coast regatta. The Rolex Big Boat Series annually attracts many world-caliber sailors, all of whom are eager to win one of the six specially engraved Rolex timepieces awarded to the six Perpetual Trophy winners.

2008 PERPETUAL TROPHY WINNERS

St. Francis Perpetual Trophy

Dedicated in 1964, the trophy was established to stimulate and encourage competition among large ocean racing yachts. The trophy has been awarded annually since the inception of the Big Boat Series 44 years ago to yachts invited to a race or series of races that are measured and handicapped in accordance with the current measurement rule and rate 40 feet or more. This trophy was donated by Commodore A. L. Sandy McCormick in 2007, and it is the only one that does not rotate among the classes each year. It was presented to the premier handicap division, the IRC A class. In 2008 Samba Pa Ti, the TP52 owned by John Kilroy (Los Angeles, CA) won.

Richard Rheem Perpetual Trophy

The Richard Rheem Perpetual Trophy, established in 1972 in memory of Richard Rheem whose famous yacht Morning Star was the elapsed time winner in the 1949 and 1955 Transpac races to Honolulu, went to John Porter's (Lake Geneva, WI) Full Throttle, in the 9-boat Melges 32 class.

Keefe-Kilborn Memorial Trophy

Established in 1976 to honor Harold Keefe and Ray Kilborn. Dave Kirby (Manhattan Beach, CA) on his J/122 TKO won the 8-boat IRC C class.

Atlantic Perpetual Trophy

The Atlantic Perpetual Trophy, established in 1978, features the ship's bell of the yacht Atlantic, longtime TransAtlantic Ocean record holder (1905). The bell was donated by John C. "Jack" Morris, and the trophy by Jack H. Feller Jr. Mike Garl (San Francisco, CA) won the 13-boat IRC D class aboard his Beneteau 40.7 White Dove.

City of San Francisco Trophy

On loan to the St. Francis Yacht Club since 1968, the trophy is one of the two golden spades used to break ground for the Golden Gate Bridge in 1933, Brad Copper (Pt. Richmond, CA) and his Custom Tripp 43 won it in the IRC B class.

Commodore's Cup

Created in 2004 to encourage competition in one-design racing on San Francisco Bay and awarded annually to the largest one-design fleet. Rolf Kaiser and Scott Sellers (San Francisco, CA) won the 31-boat J/105 class on Donkey Jack.

ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES

ST. FRANCIS YACHT CLUB
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 10TH TO 13TH, 2009



The Rolex Big Boat Series, held in San Francisco Bay, is the ultimate nautical challenge. The world's top sailors navigate the notorious currents and heavy winds in pursuit of glory. And with full sails set against the Golden Gate Bridge and green hills, there's no better view. If only the wind would behave so they could enjoy it.



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