



eRhumb Lines

Merry Christmas and welcome to Pacific Sailing School's special eRhumb Lines edition featuring a number of women competing in the high profile offshore races over Christmas and New Year.

All the women profiled have undertaken a number of courses at PSS, from basic training such as C1 Set Sail and C2 Competent Crew to Spinnaker, Championship Racing, Offshore Crew, Coastal Skipper and competing on PSS boats in the Winter and Summer Racing Series. Some of them only started sailing last year!

PSS managed to interview the girls before the start of the big races to Hobart and Coffs Harbour. Links to the official 2007 Rolex Sydney Hobart website allow you to follow the girls on their trip to Hobart via the Yacht Tracker. We will also catch up with the crew in Hobart and Coffs Harbour to bring you news about their experiences on the way.

Women change offshore racing

The Rolex Sydney Hobart website states that "in the bygone era, ocean yacht racing was a male sport, but nowadays most yachts carry mixed crews."

Terry notes that in the foyer of the CYCA there is a map of Tassie listing all the guys who have completed at least 25 Hobarts. Beside it is a list of women who have completed at least 10 Hobarts. Ex-PSS student Kerry Goudge is listed on this honour roll and was a skipper of an all female crew at one stage.



Below is a profile of a number of girls who started sailing with PSS who are racing offshore in the 2007 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race or the 27th Pittwater to Coffs Harbour Offshore Series.

2007 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

Often described as the Everest of the sport, competing in the 628 nautical mile race is a potential dream that drives many people to learn to sail with PSS. From the spectacular Boxing Day start on Sydney Harbour, to crossing the notorious Bass Strait and a massive welcome in Hobart, competitors have tales and memories of a lifetime.

Here are a few PSS trained crew sailing out of Sydney Heads on Boxing Day.

- Caroline Wheeler sailing *Mr Beak's Ribs* Sail No 8447



It completely bucketed down with rain during the C1 Set Sail Course in June 2003 and Vickie didn't think that Caroline would come back for more! However, here she is competing in her 4th Sydney Hobart aboard the Beneteau First 44.7 *Mr Beaks Ribs*.

The IT software sales manager has previously crewed to Hobart twice on PSS Boat *Cadenza*. “My previous 3 races have all been very different. In 2003 it was stormy and rough while we didn’t get any rain last year. The forecast is that the breeze will die off but hopefully we will have enough wind to keep chugging along.”

Caroline notes that she is lucky to be one of the few who does not get sea sick so she is more than happy to go below and make sure the other crew are fed and watered, or to pack a kite. “My tip for all the other girls is to make sure that you have thermal hotpants on – they are a lifesaver!”

- Lorna Jackson sailing *Inner Circle* Sail No M762

A physiotherapist onboard a Hobart race must be a good thing! This is Lorna’s second attempt at the Sydney Hobart on *Inner Circle* F40 10R which she recently crewed on in the Lord Howe Race. In 2004 Lorna crewed on *Witchcraft* in 60 knot winds when the skipper understandably decided to abandon the race at Green Cape and head back to Eden.

Lorna undertook the Race Course at PSS in 2001 and is relishing her spot as bowman this year. “I can’t wait. I feel like I’ve got unfinished business to make it to Hobart this year.”

- Dinah Eagle sailing *Pretty Fly II* Sail No 8924

Dinah and Lorna completed the same PSS C4 Race Course and the two have been friends ever since. This is Dinah’s 4th Sydney Hobart having completed the 2002 race onboard *Anteater*. This year the communications consultant will crew for her third time on the Beneteau First 47.7 *Pretty Fly II*. Dinah says that her first trip on *Pretty Fly* in 2004 saw them win the “Race to Eden”, being the first into the southern most port of the mainland due to radio trouble. The same crew made it safely to Hobart in 2005.



Dinah has helmed on *Pretty Fly* during her last 2 races. “I absolutely love it,” she says. “We encountered 35-40 knots which made it difficult at times to complete a full hour on the helm. I’m very excited about this year’s race and we are hoping for strong winds on the nose.”

- Sarah Hullah sailing *Toyota Aurion V6* Sail No 10000 (formally *Brindabella*)



Legal publications editor Sarah walked into PSS in September 2006 and is now undertaking her first Sydney Hobart aboard *Toyota Aurion V6* or *Andrew Short Marine Brindabella*. “I want to encourage others to learn to sail as it is the best thing ever! If you

live in Sydney you should be out on the Harbour” advises Sarah.

“My first race was in January in the Monday Twilight Series and I have raced all year including the Winter Series. Race week at Hamilton Island was pretty tough trying to fit all the partying in with the sailing - it was very difficult. PSS gives you an excellent idea as to what sailing is really about with Terry’s debriefs afterwards, particularly after theory night.”

Sydney to Coffs Harbour

The 226 nautical mile race started in 1981 as a “warm water” alternative to the Sydney Hobart. A series of pre and post races are offered with the main event leaving Broken Bay on 2 January 2008 – just in time to clear the hangovers from seeing in the New Year! At least two women who started with PSS are competing in the series this year:

- Alison Meadows sailing *Tulip* Swan 45

Alison, a nurse from UK started sailing at PSS in Christmas 2005 – only 2 years ago! Alison has attended many courses and sailed in the Winter and Summer Series and is looking forward to the Sydney to Coffs Harbour race on the Swan 45 *Tulip* with Leander.



- Leander Klohs *Tulip* Swan 45



eRhumb Lines featured Leander in its December wrap up of the most recent C8 Coastal Skipper Course to Port Stephens. At the time Leander said that she hoped to crew in an offshore race such as the Pittwater to Coffs Harbour in January. And it’s happening with Leander finding a position trimming on Swan 45 *Tulip*!

Leander only started sailing with PSS in September 2006 and has been crewing on *Tulip* in the Short Ocean Races and Ocean Pointscores. “This is my first offshore race and I am very excited although I have a little trepidation,” said Leander who works for the City of Sydney. “However I’m pleased I’m heading north rather than south as hopefully it won’t be as hard as getting to Hobart.”

Go Girls and good luck also to our great team of instructors turning right at the heads on Boxing Day.

http://rolexsydneyhobart.com/yacht_tracker.asp?key=522

<http://www.pittwatertocoffs.com.au/>

www.pacificsailingschool.com.au