



ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES 2008



NOTICE OF RACE
San Francisco, CA, USA
September 11-14, 2008



St. Francis Yacht Club



ROLEX





Allen Brill
President and
Chief Executive Officer

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

Dear Competitors:

As the Rolex Big Boat Series celebrates its 44th anniversary, Rolex is especially pleased to be associated with this regatta and with the St. Francis Yacht Club. Over the years this regatta has been at the forefront of sailboat racing, setting the standard for U.S. competition.

Each year more and more competitors join us from across North America and abroad, attracted by the superlative race management and onshore spirit for which this event is known.

Rolex looks forward to greeting you – skippers, your families and your crew – in September and together celebrating the success of the 2008 Rolex Big Boat Series.

Until then, fair winds and great sailing!

Cordially,

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





March 1, 2008

Dear Big Boat Invitee:

On behalf of the officers, directors and members of the St. Francis Yacht Club it is my pleasure to invite you and your crew to participate in the 44th annual St. Francis Perpetual Trophy Regatta, now known as the Rolex Big Boat Series, to be held September 11 - 14, 2008.

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 10. Racing for all classes will commence on Thursday, September 11 and continue through Sunday, September 14. 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 2008 event. Please complete and return the enclosed entry form as soon as possible to receive more information about 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://ussailing.org/offshore/irc/IRCap05.xls>

Berthing at the St. Francis Yacht Club will be available at no charge at assigned locations starting on Monday, September 8. 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 25-28, 2008. If you need further information for either the regatta or cruise, please contact the St.FYC Race Office at 415-563-6363 or raceoffice@stfyc.com. We hope to see you in September.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Horn, III
Commodore
St. Francis Yacht Club





► RULES

1.1 This regatta will be governed by the Rules as defined by the Racing Rules of 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. For Handicap Divisions: The IRC Rules, Parts 1,2, and 3 shall apply. Yachts shall submit a copy of their IRC endorsed certificate not later than September 1st, 2008. 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.) 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.

► 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 dollars 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, September 1 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 at registration 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: Transpac 52, J/120, Sydney 38, Melges 32, Express 37, One Design 35, J/105, 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 September 1, the entered boats may be assigned to another division 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.

► 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, Sept 8 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. All trailers without a permit will be towed.

REGATTA SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 10

- 0900 - 1200 Registration & Check-In
- 1500 - 1900 Registration & Check-In
- 1800 - 1930 Rolex Commodore's Reception / Skippers Meeting

Thursday, September 11

- 0900 - 0930 Late Registration
- 1100 Racing Begins - Two Races Scheduled
- 1700 - 2000 Rolex Party

Friday, September 12

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

Saturday, September 13

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

Sunday, September 14

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





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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 LA. Norris, Mark Fontana, Myron Spaulding, Arthur Rousseau, Painless Parker and Lester Stone. Today, it is names like Paul Cayard, John Kostecki, 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 2007. 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.

2007 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. Samba Pa Ti, the TP52 owned by John Kilroy (Los Angeles, Calif.) won the five-boat division.

Richard Rheem Perpetual Trophy

The Richard Rheem Perpetual Trophy, established in 1972 in his 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 Bartz Schneider's (Crystal Bay, Nev.) Expeditious, in the 10-boat Express 37 class.

Keefe-Kilborn Memorial Trophy

Established in 1976 to honor Harold Keefe and Ray Kilborn. Dave Kirby (Manhattan Beach, Calif.) on his J/122 TKO won the 13-boat IRC C class.

Atlantic Perpetual Trophy

The Atlantic Perpetual Trophy, established in 1978, features the ship's bell of the yacht Atlantic, long-time TransAtlantic Ocean record holder (1905). The bell was donated by John C. "Jack" Morris, and the trophy by Jack H. Feller Jr. Jean-Yves Lendormy (San Francisco) won the 10-boat IRC D class aboard his custom 45-foot Acabar.

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, Lani Spund (Los Gatos, Calif.) and his SC52 Kokopelli2 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. Chris Perkins (San Francisco) won the 34-boat J/105 class on his Good Timin.

THE ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES

ST. FRANCIS YACHT CLUB
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 11TH TO 14TH, 2008



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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