



## Presidents report

When you look at the calendar, we are well into the season, but when you look at the race results we have only just begun. This has been one of our worst season starts with regular strong wind warnings and cold southerly blasts keeping everyone with any sense away from the water. Of course there is always someone silly enough to take a chance no matter what (well done to the skipper of provocative and others) and a couple of races have seen the usual suspects trying to brave the elements. The one pleasant day we have had saw 12 cobras on the beach – very impressive!! The weather was almost warm enough for Chris Wells to sail!!

Those who did manage to get their boats out seem to have had the damage stick waved at them (alright, I can hear you all saying “I told you so, I told you so” or “serves you right”) – Rick, Peter Casey, Pete Marsh and yours truly all copped some serious breakage on the way to the finishing line (or in my case the starting line), but probably better there than at the Nats.

With the slow start to the season, I have asked the club to consider extending the season by a month to allow us to sail all the races, and to discuss permanently moving the season so that it begins and ends four weeks later than the present system. This should give us a chance to sail in warmer water as well as expect more acceptable winds – comments from all Cobra people welcome (for or against).

Speaking of the National titles, the preparations are well underway, and although the entry numbers are disappointing, we hope the event will be a huge success on and off the water. If you haven't entered yet there is still time. All the information that we have had about Toukley indicates a great venue awaits us!

The VCCA committee has started looking at possible venues for the next State Titles, with Lake Boga and Wahranga strong possibilities – Lake Bolac doesn't have an Easter Regatta in 2004 so it isn't in consideration.

The ongoing saga of the Cobra hull manufacturers continues (it would make a great soap opera), with the focus back in Vic (“what goes around, comes around”). If you want the full details and have a few hours to spare, ask Rick (but watch his blood pressure!)

The good news is that we will be able to buy new Cobras from now on so start saving now! This is great news for the continuation of the Cobras as we need an input of new craft to take us into the future.

Speaking of the future, welcome to Will and Ian - our two new crew members. We hope they continue in Cobras for a long time. There are still a couple of skippers looking for permanent crews, so if any of you know anyone who wants to experience the thrills of Cobra sailing, bring them along. It needs a little effort from all of us to keep the Cobras alive.

On that note, enjoy the rest of the season, have a happy Christmas and Nationals and keep your mast salt free!!!

Laurie

## **Ceremony for Renaming Your Boat**

By Capt. Pat

Everyone knows that renaming your boat will bring nothing but bad luck and make your boating experience something that you will want to forget.

But what happens when, after months of searching, you find your dreamboat with a name that you just cannot live with?

Renaming a boat is, of course, not something to be done lightly. Since the beginning of time, sailors have sworn that there are unlucky ships and the unluckiest ships of all are those who have defied the gods and changed their names.

So, is there a way to change a name and not incur the wrath of those deities that rule the elements? Yes, Virginia, there is.

According to legend, each and every vessel is recorded by name in the Ledger of the Deep and is known personally to Poseidon, or Neptune, the god of the sea. It is logical therefore, if we wish to change the name of our boat, the first thing we must do is to purge its name from the Ledger of the Deep and from Poseidon's memory.

This is an involved process beginning with the removal or obliteration of every trace of the boat's current identity. This is essential and must be done thoroughly.

I once went through the ceremony after the owner had assured me that every reference to his boat's old name had been purged from her. A couple of weeks later, he discovered he had missed a faded name on her floating key chain. I advised him to start over, perhaps with a little extra libation for the ruler of the sea.

Unfortunately, he declined. Since then, his boat has been struck by lightning, had its engine ruined by the ingress of the sea, been damaged by collision and finally sunk! It pays to be thorough.

In purging your boat, it is acceptable to use White-Out or some similar obliterating fluid to expunge the boat's name from log books, engine and maintenance records etc., but it is much easier to simply remove the offending document from the boat and start afresh.

Don't forget the life rings and especially the transom and forward name boards. Do not under any circumstances carry aboard any item bearing your boat's new name until the purging and renaming ceremonies have been completed!

Once you are certain every reference to her old name has been removed from her, all that is left to do is to prepare a metal tag with the old name written on it in water-soluble ink.

You will also need a bottle of reasonably good Champagne. Plain old sparkling wine won't cut it. Since this is an auspicious occasion, it is a good time to invite your friends to witness and to party.

Begin by invoking the name of the ruler of the deep as follows: Oh mighty and great ruler of the seas and oceans, to whom all ships and we who venture upon your vast domain are required to pay homage, implore you in your graciousness to expunge for all time from your records and recollection the name (here insert the old name of your vessel) which has ceased to be an entity in your kingdom.

As proof thereof, we submit this ingot bearing her name to be corrupted through your powers and forever be purged from the sea. (At this point, the prepared metal tag is dropped from the bow of the boat into the sea.)

In grateful acknowledgment of your munificence and dispensation, we offer these libations to your majesty and your court. (Pour at least half of the bottle of Champagne into the sea from East to West. The remainder may be passed among your guests.)

It is usual for the renaming ceremony to be conducted immediately following the purging ceremony, although it may be done at any time after the purging ceremony. For this portion of the proceedings, you will need more Champagne, Much more because you have a few more gods to appease.

Begin the renaming by again calling Poseidon as follows: Oh mighty and great ruler of the seas and oceans, to whom all ships and we who venture upon your vast domain are required to pay homage, implore you in your graciousness to take unto your records and recollection this worthy vessel hereafter and for all time known as (Here insert the new name you have chosen), guarding her with your mighty arm and trident and ensuring her of safe and rapid passage throughout her journeys within your realm.

In appreciation of your munificence, dispensation and in honor of your greatness, we offer these libations to your majesty and your court. (At this point, one bottle of Champagne, less one glass for the master and one glass for the mate are poured into the sea from West to East.)

The next step in the renaming ceremony is to appease the gods of the winds. This will assure you of fair winds and smooth seas. Because the four winds are brothers, it is permissible to invoke them all at the same time, however, during the ceremony; you must address each by name.

Begin in this manner: Oh mighty rulers of the winds, through whose power our frail vessels traverse the wild and faceless deep, we implore you to grant this worthy vessel (Insert your boat's new name) the benefits and pleasures of your bounty, ensuring us of your gentle ministrations according to our needs.

(Facing north, pour a generous libation of Champagne into a Champagne flute and fling to the North as you intone:) Great Boreas, exalted ruler of the North Wind, grant us permission to use your mighty powers in the pursuit of our lawful endeavors, ever sparing us the overwhelming scourge of your frigid breath.

(Facing west, pour the same amount of Champagne and fling to the West while intoning:) Great Zephyrus, exalted ruler of the West Wind, grant us permission to use your mighty powers in the pursuit of our lawful endeavors, ever sparing us the overwhelming scourge of your wild breath.

(Facing east, repeat and fling to the East.) Great Eurus, exalted ruler of the East Wind, grant us permission to use your mighty powers in the pursuit of our lawful endeavors, ever sparing us the overwhelming scourge of your mighty breath.

(Facing south, repeat, flinging to the South.) Great Notus, exalted ruler of the South Wind, grant us permission to use your mighty powers in the pursuit of our lawful endeavors, ever sparing us the overwhelming scourge of your scalding breath.

Of course, any champagne remaining will be the beginnings of a suitable celebration in honor of the occasion. Once the ceremony has been completed, you may bring aboard any and all items bearing the new name of your vessel.

If you must schedule the painting of the new name on the transom before the ceremony, be sure the name is not revealed before the ceremony is finished. It may be covered with bunting or some other suitable material.

FROM THE EDITOR.....

This computer business is still beyond me so layout and presentation is still totally lacking. Content is up to you guys and as you have seen Laurie has been busy and Stan has shared some of his most carefully guarded secrets. Rick sent me 103 of his favorite sailing stories but my hard drive only has 15 zillion gigabytes so it crashed. Maybe next issue.

In this months adult only sealed section contained in the second attachment, there is something that I bet you guys haven't seen for a long time. Got you curious? If its been so long that you cant even remember when you see it, think TOM.

And given that theres nothing else important to talk about its time for

COLINS POISONED PEN !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A couple of weeks into the season, Rick decided to come and have a sail . He was in the change room struggling with his wetsuit which in a highly original way he claimed had shrunk during the winter. There were muffled groans of assent from others in the same predicament and then a cry from Rick . That man over there he said, theres something wrong , he's got wrinkles in his wetsuit ! The V.C.C.A welcomes the new slimline Stan.

We all know that Mal's full of it. Good advice I mean. He was sharing some of his skills as a chef the other day. I always cook with wine he said. Sometimes I even put some of it in the food.

Chris is a really popular guy. Everyone just loves it when he comes down to the club. Its because he has such control. (Not of his manners, his language, or of his boat ) , but of the weather. When ever Chris comes down, the sun is shining , the wind is great (the windsurfers are scared – because he Knows even less about the sailing rules than they do ), everything is just right. Some unkind person suggested that he is only a fair weather sailor, but let me tell you that there is nothing fair about Chris!

Speaking of Chris, as you know he has finally relinquished his hold on the role of President to allow Laurie to achieve his long sought after ambition. But he has left very big boots for Laurie to fill. A few weeks back , Laurie managed to tip over in a race in only 5 Knots of wind. It was a good effort and one worthy of the President but when Chris did it was in 3 knots and in the national titles! Keep trying Laurie, we'll all give you any assistance you require.

We can all learn from Mal and unfortunately some of us do. A couple of weeks ago a new course was being trialed and because the winds were light Colin was out in front. Until he went the wrong way . I knew what the course was but I just went to the wrong buoy says he. Everyone laughed, except the sheep who had followed him.

One race I was sailing towards the bottom mark and I was quite dismayed to see a dismayed Cobra in front of me. Oh no I thought, I haven't got my ear muffs on and it looks like Dave and Lisa's boat so I will be learning some words that even Chris Doesn't Know. You can imagine my relief when I discovered that it was Peter Casey and Chris his crew. Apparently the \$2 piece of string that ties the forestay to the bridle had broken. Peter was last seen at the chandlers handing over \$3.