

# Boat and Crew Preparation

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Pacific Cup 1992, 1994, 1998, 2004

# Preparation – why?

95% of the problems that you will experience will be on-board when you leave the dock.

# Preparation – why?

The ocean rarely creates problems, but is very good at finding problems with that you bring with you.



# Safety Equipment Requirements

## 1.2 Overall: Responsibility

The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the "person in charge", as per RRS 46, who shall ensure that the boat is seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew with sufficient ability and experience to face bad weather. S/he shall be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. S/he shall ensure that all safety equipment is at all times properly maintained and safely stowed and that the crew knows where it is kept and how it is to be used.

# Preparation – Context:

- Crew preparation is as critical as the boat preparation.
- There is never enough time to do everything.
- Money can be substituted for time; usually in large quantities.
- Humans are better at predicting failures than addressing them beforehand.



# Preparation – Key pieces:

- Crew recruitment and selection
- Hull, Rig, Rudder and Steering
- Safety gear
- Systems
  - Electrical, Communications, Plumbing, Engine
- Deck gear and running rigging
- Sails
- Food/galley

# Crew Selection and Organization

- Qualifying the crew
- Defining the objective
- Crew organization
- Watch schedules
- Practice and training



# **Crew training and practice:** workdays, practices, and races.

- What is our objective(s) today?
- Establish primary roles.
- Develop cross training
- Debrief after every session.
- Make a fix it list.



# Information Management:



# Preparation Major Projects:

- Hull integrity
  - Keel bolts
  - Thru-hull fittings
  - Delamination
- Rig – pull, inspect, tune, etc.
- Rudder and bearings; steering.



# AVOID USING your Emergency Rudder

## Check Primary Rudder before you leave

- Cracks/Corrosion of post at joints and at hull profile
- Cracks crazing in surface of rudder indicate fatigue of blade, possible hidden weakness in post
- Condition of Upper and lower bearings, gudgeons
- Good structural link between hull and deck where upper and lower bearings are mounted
- Pull hard on the rudder in the boatyard. What moves?

# Preparation: Systems

- Electrical
- Communications
- Alternative method of steering
- Plumbing
- Engine
- Deck gear and running rigging.
- Galley



# Before you leave the dock:

- Consider each system and predict the potential failure; make a list.
- Review articles; make a list.
- Ask your vendor (sailmaker, diesel mechanic, rigging tech, etc.); make a list.







# Understanding the Odds

- There will be problems:
  - 6 will rebuild heads during the passage
  - 5 will have problems with vang or gooseneck attachments
  - 4 will have problems with fuel
  - 4 will have electrical system problems
  - 3 will have rudder/steering problems
  - 2 will have communications issues

# Understanding the Odds

- None will finish without an issue.
- What will yours be?



# Shit Happens!

- Bulletproof, tested.
- Redundancy.
- Repairability:
  - Tools
  - Parts or material
  - Skill and knowledge

# After you depart:

- Walk-around inspection 2X per day.
- Check list of critical items.
- Listen to your boat; that strange noise is your boat telling you there is a problem.



# Knowledgebase:

## www.pacificcup.org

Knowledgebase | Pac x

https://www.pacificcup.org/kb

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July 2016  
The FUN Race to Hawaii

starts in  
147 days 02h 19m 01s

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### Knowledgebase

#### Topics

- Ask a Vet
- Boat Selection
- Clothing
- Collections of Advice
- Communications
- Crew selection
- Driving
- Electrical
- Emergency Situations
- Emergency Steering
- Food
- General
- Getting Back
- Hawaii
- Inspections
- Insurance
- Medical
- Navigation
- Navigation Systems

#### Pacific Cup Knowledgebase

##### General

Ratings for 2016 Pac Cup - Jan-2016	Buzz Blackett
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##### Planning

Boat Optimization - Sep-2015	Skip McCormack Jody McCormack
Preparation Timeline for 2016 - Jan-2015	Mary Lovely
Pac Cup Expenses - Jun-2013	
Where to Dock Your Out-Of-Town Boat in SF Bay - Apr-2012	Sylvia Seaberg
Spares and Repairs Underway - (Video Link) - Dec-2011	Steve Chamberlin
Preparing for the Passage (video) - (Video Link) - Nov-2011	Steve Chamberlin
Emergency Management - Sep-2011	PCYC



# Knowledge - The Book:

<https://www.pacificcup.org/kb/outfitting-tips-surprise>

- Logsheet
- Daily checklist
- Emergency procedures
- Rollcall lists
- Comm. Plan, SI, NOR
- List and location plan
- Sail crossover matrix/polars
- Menus and stores
- Medical supplies list



# Preparation Knowledge Skill

*the keys to:*

- Safe
- Fun
- Fast

