

# WIND WORDS

Newsletter of the Convair Sailing Club

January • 2025



## Registration Day Coming Up In January

Registration Day is Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at the HIWM poolside from 10:00 AM to Noon with coffee and donuts.

Dues for 2025 will be \$950 plus a \$450 special assessment. Bring your signed application, your old key and a check or cash for your payment. 📄

## WindWords Investigators Confounded By Mystery Device



WindWords Labs investigators appeared to be stumped when asked to explain the workings of a strange device discovered among sailing equipment recovered from a Pacific Beach home in November. The device appears to have been custom made and has the General Dynamic name stamped on the side.

Continued on Page 3, Column 2.

## Annual Victory Team Race, December 7<sup>th</sup>



Story from Sandy Leon

Photo and additional comments from Craig Unger.

The team race is an annual event for the Victory fleet. This year it fell on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. It took place in North Bay where regular Victory racing is usually held. The race results were presented at the Holiday Lunch on December 8<sup>th</sup> when the Frank Anthony Team Race Trophy was awarded to:

Terry Edlund / Doug Diephols  
Robert Skillings / Fernando Valera  
Tom Bedford / Jeff Strickfaden

Accepting the Frank Anthony Team Trophy are Robert Skillings, Terry Edlund and Tom Bedford. Doug Diepholz, Fernando Valera and Jeff Strickfaden were not in attendance.



We create teams of equal number boats and the individual scores are added to get the lowest team score for that race. The first team with two wins, wins the event and all racers on that team go on a perpetual

In this photo Sandy/Michael tried to slow the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th boats during one of the team races.

Here is Craig's explanation below:

In team races, the team with the fewest points wins. So, coming in first place does no good if the next three boats are on the other team. Sandy and Michael on the Blue team were way ahead going to the leeward mark.

Sandy and Michael in 648, sailed off course and are seen coming back on a starboard tack to slow the White team boats and help their team catch up. Tom and Jeff in 634 were forced to maneuver and were slowed but that allowed Terry and Doug in 615 to slip past them both. Ultimately the White team prevailed in the first two races while the Blue team won the final race."

trophy. There are special rules for a team race. Racers use these rules to help their teammates get ahead of the competition. Note that in the event of a tie score, the team with the winning boat loses. He should have helped his teammates get past the competition. Information was sent out to the racing list about how it all works. 📄

## Congratulations Victory Checkout!

**B**ernardo Chavez completed his Victory checkout on December 20th.



What's next? Maybe we'll see him at the regular

Thursday meeting of the SuperSloopers or Day Sailing with friends and family.

## Man's Best Friend Goes Extra Nautical Mile



Artist rendition of dog, right after retrieving key.  
"Hay buddy, this is taking 'Go fetch' a little too far!"

**T**aking friends sailing isn't always easy. You can find yourself doing ten things at once, which is what happened to one CSC member who found out his key went overboard *sometime during the sail*.

Fortunately, the key was retrieved from the bay by a dog whose owner delivered it to the HIWM dock. Mark Sutton just happened to be on site. **R**

## Sailing Backwards?

**M**ost sailors are content with keeping the boat moving forward, *but shouldn't we focus on sailing in the other direction?* This was Harry Smith's question at the November 21<sup>st</sup> SuperSloopers meeting. The group accepted the challenge and attempted to sail a number of Victory boats in reverse. Everyone succeeded, Bill Burch was able to achieve the best results, sustaining backward sailing in a straight line for a considerable distance.

Plans were made to attempt sailing backwards *in formation* (no self respecting SuperSlooper could resist). We'll keep you posted on their success.

**But you are probably asking, "Does this have any relevant historical context?"**

**Apparently yes!**

When the SuperSlooper story first reached *WindWords*, a reporter mentioned recalling something from 19<sup>th</sup> Century literature regarding backward sailing in the Royal British Navy. Dedicated research by Sandra Smith (*wife of SuperSlooper coordinator Harry Smith*) uncovered the following quote from *The Hunting of the Snark* (1876) by Lewis Carroll:

Backward sailing mastermind Harry Smith with his wife and research maven Sandra.



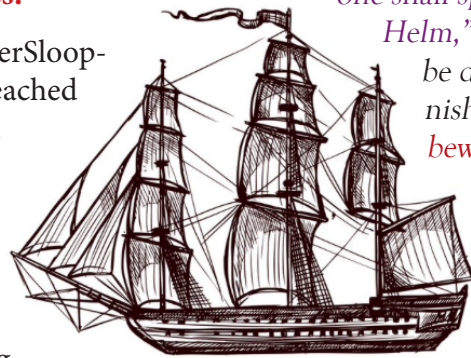
Bill Burch achieved outstanding backward sailing results.



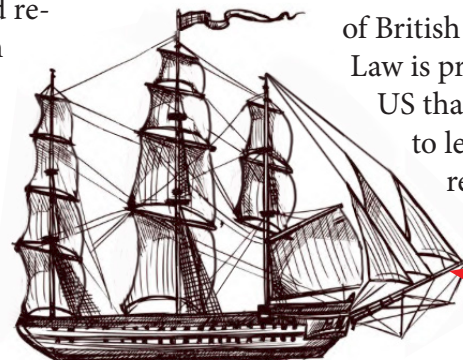
**"Then the bowsprit got mixed with the rudder sometimes."**

"The Bellman, who was almost morbidly sensitive about appearances, used to have the bowsprit unshipped once or twice a week to be re-varnished, *and it more than once happened, when the time came for replacing it, that no one on board could remember which end of the ship it belonged to.* They knew it was not of the slightest use to appeal to the Bellman about it—he would only refer to his Naval Code, and read out in pathetic tones Admiralty Instructions which none of them had ever been able to understand—so it generally ended in its being fastened on, anyhow, across the rudder. *The helmsman used to stand by with tears in his eyes; he knew it was all wrong, but alas! Rule 42 of the Code, "No one shall speak to the Man at the Helm," . . . no steering could*

*be done till the next varnishing day. During these bewildering intervals the ship usually sailed backwards."*



Right



Wrong

Admiralty Regulations do not apply to boating in "the colonies" but so much of British Common Law is practices in the US that it's good idea to learn to sail in reverse, *just in case!* **R**

Bowsprit connected at wrong end. This can result in the ship sailing backwards!

# Free Sailboat



As part of our ongoing Wind-Words segment on sailboat opportunities we bring you our latest find. Just like our last installment (see August 2024, Page 5, Col. 3) this mint condition sloop is Free!

It was discovered by alert racer and 2025 Commodore Tracy Williams during the October Ensign Ocean Race conveniently located about 200 meters from the Zuniga Shoal. There appears to be some minor damage to the shrouds. The rest of the boat would have to be dried off. 🐛

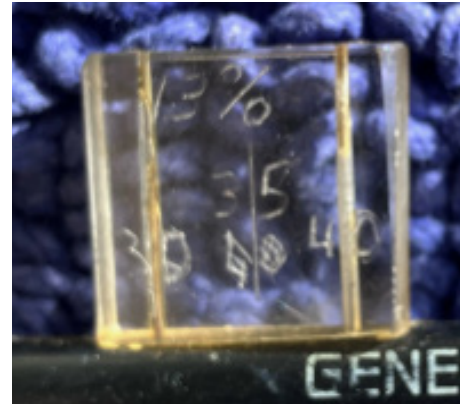
### As is. No warranties.

Acquisition may be pending criminal investigations. Clear title may require Cost Guard inspection. Salvage at owners expense. Location 32°39'49"N 117°13'7"W

Continued from Page 1, Column 1.

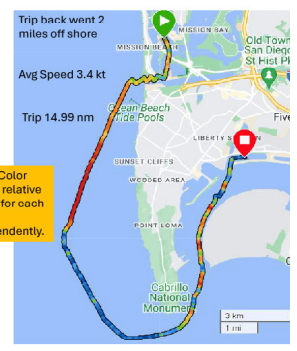
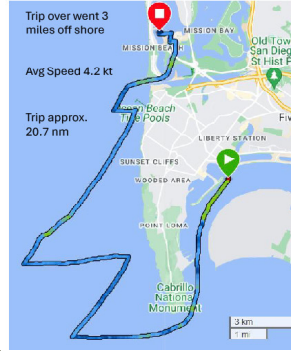
“The device also has a small, plastic square on the top with what appears to be a formula of some kind etched into the surface.” said Senior Researcher Tom Bedford. “We have no clue as to what these numbers and symbols mean”.

The device was found among sailing equipment and spare parts accumulated over a lifetime by CSC member Alex Leondis who died in September. Leondis, a rocket scientist and respected member of the engineering community, was known to move about freely in the murky, secretive underworld of wind driv-



en tech. He may have come by the mystery device there. Or it may be the result of work he did for NASA or NOAA. “For all we know it came from **outer space!**” said Bedford, “His friends at CSC **aren’t talking!** We may **never** know the answer.” 🐛

# Sailing To Mission Bay ... And Home



Note: Color shows relative speed for each graph independently.

They say getting there is half the fun. Here’s Craig Unger’s Garmin data from the trip to Victory Nationals and back. They experienced wind from 5.7 Kts to flat out nothing. The

course took them over three miles from the coast. I sailed this a few years ago with Tracy Williams and it was fast! And you get to see Point Loma from the west! 🐛

# Saildrone Followup

Loyal readers will recall that we first reported on the Saildrone program back in September (Page 1 Col. 1). Saildrone made national news reporting on Hurricane Milton, capturing this photo from inside the storm in the Gulf of Mexico. It sailed in wind gusts of 66.21 Kts and 8.6 miter (28.2 foot) waves! 🐛



## Convair Sailing Club Board of Directors

Commodore.....Tracy Williams  
 Vice Commodore..... *Open*  
 Rear Commodore..... John Hysler  
 Junior Staff Commodore..... Sandy Leon  
 Secretary ..... Bob Keefe  
 Treasurer..... Omar Del Rio  
 Director ..... Paul Feldon  
 Director ..... Rajeev Jain  
 Director ..... Tom Bedford  
 Fleet Captain ..... Tom Bedford  
 Port Captain ..... Mark Sutton  
 Chief of Racing ..... Sandy Leon  
 Chief of Instruction..... John Hysler  
 Chief of Communications ..... Jeff Nelson  
 Registrar..... Rajeev Jain  
 Membership Chairman..... Tom Bedford  
 Chief of Checkout - Ensign.... Paul Feldon  
 Chief of Checkout - Victory ..... *Open*

## Lost & Found



This shirt was found on one of the boats. It's in the dock-side box.

By the way, if you find items like this, text "*Lost & Found*" with a photo to 760-533-8706 to post it in *WindWords*. 📧

If you have a story you'd like to see in *WindWords* text "CSC Story" to 760-533-8706. 📧

## Jerry Rapp's

# Q&A

CSC member Jerry Rapp supplied the following quiz questions for our entertainment. See if you can answer them! (Answers in Column 3.)

### Questions:

1. Where on a mainsail would you expect to find a shelf?
2. Traditionally, flags have been flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning. Why at half-mast?
3. What name is given to the two half-watches which create an odd number of watches during the 24 hour day?
4. Which sail do we associate with the Foreguy and the Afterguy?
5. For the same sail in question 4, is there also a Lazy Guy (If you answered "Jeff Nelson", subtract 10 points!)
6. *Extra Credit:* Is there other "laziness" associated with this sail? 📧

### Helpful Info.

Convair Web Site:  
<https://convairsailingclub.com/contact/>

Convair Sailing Club on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ConvairSailing>

Convair Address:  
 Convair Sailing Club  
 P.O. Box 22981  
 San Diego, CA 92192-2981

Coast Guard Safety:  
<http://www.uscgboating.org> 📧

## And While We're Asking Questions...

This boat was sighted near Shelter Island. Can anyone tell us what this is? We have been meaning to ask for months. Anyone? 📧

Text "Mystery Sailboat" to 760-533-8706



### Answers:

1. Along the foot.
2. To leave room for the "invisible flag of death."
3. The dog watch splits the standard four-hour watch into two two-hour segments, typically scheduled between 16:00 and 20:00. The first dog watch runs from 16:00 to 18:00, and the second from 18:00 to 20:00. This system, unique to maritime operations, has been a long-standing tradition in seafaring.
4. The Spinnaker.
5. There is a Lazy Guy connected to the Spinnaker. It's connected to the clue that is on the leeward side.
6. There is also a Lazy Sheet. It's on the windward side.

📧