

# THE RACING



## New Regatta Set for June 28-29

Excuse our Greek, but 2006 was a hell of a year for Natalie Criou. Among the good: she bought the Express 27 *Elise* and joined the local fleet. Among the bad, a boat she was helping deliver back from Hawaii after the Pacific Cup (Nick Barran's 40-ft *Mureadritta XL*) was rammed and sunk by whales. A couple months later, in September, her OB/GYN called to tell her she had a tumor. It was eventually diagnosed as a rare type of sarcoma. What followed was the nightmare that Natalie — like most of us — had previously only read about: half a year of fear, pain, illness, self doubt and depression.

Natalie has emerged into the light at the end of that long tunnel with her life and her health (although her treatment regimens are not yet over, she is presently back at her career as a project manager at Google).

She is also back sailing, with a new inspiration to 'return the favor' — give something back to the science that saved her and new hope to the many other people, young and old, who suffer from the more than 50 known types of sarcoma — which are cancers that develop in connective tissues. Sarcomas account for 1% of

***Back in black — Pacific veteran 'Ragtime' will be on the starting line of the reincarnated Tahiti Race this summer.***

adult cancers, but 15-20% of childhood cancers, yet currently only 1% of cancer research funds are specifically allocated for sarcoma research.

The two ways she plans to do it both revolve around sailing. In the first, she has dedicated her doublehanded Pacific Cup race aboard *Elise* (with Nathan

***Natalie Criou at the helm of 'Elise'. As a cancer survivor, she's also taken the helm of a worthy cause — and a new regatta.***

Bossett) to raising awareness of sarcoma. Second and even more ambitious, she is creating a whole new regatta, open to all boats, which is slated for the end of June out of Richmond YC. We wish the 'Sarcoma Cup' had a prettier name, but then again, it's not a pretty disease.

"Getting the idea for a new weekend event was the easy part," says Nat in her half-French, half-British accent. (She grew up sailing dinghies in France and took up racing when she moved to England in her 20s. She has lived in the Bay Area since 2000.) Even putting together the nonprofit Beat Sarcoma ([www.beatsarcoma.org](http://www.beatsarcoma.org)) was comparatively easy compared to shoehorning a new race into the busy summer schedule. But talks with various agencies including YRA and the Leukemia Society (which runs a series of regattas across the country) were encouraging, and both the Express 27 fleet and Richmond YC were very enthusiastic about the idea.

So get out your pens and 2008 calendars, folks. Dates for the inaugural Sarcoma Cup are June 28-29. The format will be three to five buoy races on Saturday, a party Saturday night, and a pursuit race on Sunday. Natalie says RYC really took the ball and ran with it, among other



COURTESY NATALIE CRIOU



RICH ROBERTS

things assigning PRO Fred Paxton to run the show.

The event is open to all one design and handicap boats. Natalie has already contacted a number of them and several have made at least verbal commitments.

So let's see: a great weekend of racing (and partying) out of one of the nicest clubs in the Bay Area, at the nicest time of year. There are no major conflicts with other regattas, and all proceeds will go specifically toward sarcoma research. . . What's not to like?

You will be reading more about the Sarcoma Cup in future issues. Until then, for more on that event, *Elise's* Pacific Cup project, or Natalie herself, go to the [www.beatsarcoma.org](http://www.beatsarcoma.org) website. If you or your fleet are interested in signing up, please contact Natalie at [nat@beatsarcoma.org](mailto:nat@beatsarcoma.org).

### Ragtime Signs Up for Tahiti Race

*Ragtime* is restless, and maybe a little homesick. With a record 14th Trans-Pacific fresh under her wooden hull — trumping the former tie with *Merlin* at 13 apiece — the 65-ft ocean racing icon will return to the South Pacific waters of her birth in the 13th Tahiti Race starting next June from San Pedro.

Owner/skipper Chris Welsh of Newport Beach said the resurrection of the race after a 14-year hiatus was too tempting to pass up.

"For a West Coast sailor, Tahiti is Everest," Welsh said after filing his entry. "I felt it was compelling, like here's the race, you've got the right tool to do it, and who knows how many times in your life you'll have that all at once?"

Other early entries are Doug Baker's Andrews 80 *Magnitude 80*, from Long Beach, and Al Hughes' Open 60 *Dogbark*, from Seattle. Another high-end Long

## MIDWINTER BOX SCORES

November's oil spill threw a greasy wrench in many yacht club midwinter schedules. Unless they got off a race early in the month, most clubs cancelled all on-the-water activity in November and just began anew in December. Barring another manmade or natural disaster, most of these series will run through March.

### SBYRA WINTER #2 (SPYC, 12/1):

SPINNAKER — 1) **Wired**, Choate 27, Larry Westland; 2) **First Light**, Beneteau First 35S5, Alex Jefferies; 3) **Black Sheep**, Beneteau 25, Ron C. Brown. (6 boats)

NON-SPINNAKER — 1) **Hot Ice**, C&C 110, Mike Haddock; 2) **Columbine**, Islander 44, Dylan Benjamin. (2 boats)

Complete results: [sbyra.home.comcast.net](http://sbyra.home.comcast.net)

### SEQUOIA YC WINTER #2 (12/1):

SPINNAKER — 1) **Made Easy**, Beneteau 42, Jim Peterson; 2) **Yellow Brick Road**, Jeanneau 40, John Draeger; 3) **Magic**, Express 27, Steve Klein. (4 boats)

NON-SPINNAKER — 1) **Iowa**, Hunter 380, Rick Dalton; 2) **Mirth**, Catalina 34, Rick Gilmore.

(2 boats)

Complete results: [www.sequoiayc.org](http://www.sequoiayc.org)

### TINY ROBBINS MIDWINTER #2 (VYC, 12/1):

A FLEET (PHRF 0-174) — 1) **Summer & Smoke**, Ben. First 36.7, Pat Patterson. (1 boat)

B FLEET (PHRF 174+) — 1) **Wings**, Albin 27, Jerry Halterman; 2) **Luna Sea**, Santana 525, Steven Strunk. (2 boats)

C FLEET (NON-SPINNAKER) — 1) **Jasmine**, Ranger 23, George Hale; 2) **Somewhere in Time**, Schock 35, Tom Ochs; 3) **Lita-K III**, Catalina 42, John Karuzas. (3 boats)

Complete results: [www.vyc.org](http://www.vyc.org)

### ALAMEDA / ISLAND ESTUARY #1 (12/9):

SPINNAKER PHRF 0-138 — 1) **Rascal**, Wilderness, Rui Luis; 2) **Ragtime**, J/92, Bob Johnston; 3) **Vitesse**, SC 27, Bart Goodell. (7 boats)

SPINNAKER PHRF 139-189 — 1) **Moore Lights**, Moore 24, Aaron Lee; 2) **Bewitched**, Merit 25, Laraine Salmon; 3) **My Tahoe Too!**, Capri 25, Steve Douglass. (10 boats)

NON-SPINNAKER PHRF 190+ — 1) **Fun Zone**, Santana 22, Tom McIntyre; 2) **Atuna Matata**, Santana 22, Bill King; 3) **Auggie**, Santana 22, Sally Taylor. (3 boats)

NON-SPINNAKER — 1) **Flyer**, Peterson

33, John Diegoli; 2) **Cassiopeia**, Islander 36, Kit Wiegman; 3) **White Cloud**, Yamaha 33, Barbara Jagiello. (4 boats)

COLUMBIA 5.5 — 1) **Alert**, Liem Dao; 2) **Wings**, Mike Jackson; 3) **Krasny**, Zhenya Kirueshkin-Stepanoff. (3 boats)

Complete results: [www.iyc.org](http://www.iyc.org)

### ISLAND FEVER MIDWINTER #2 (SBYC, 12/15):

SPINNAKER PHRF 0-139 — 1) **Savage Beauty**, Flying Tiger, John LyMBERG. (1 boat)

SPINNAKER PHRF 140-179 — 1) **Crews Nest**, Catalina 34, Ray Irvine; 2) **Auggie**, Santana 22, Sally Taylor. (2 boats)

NON-SPINNAKER PHRF 180 — 1) **Dancing Bear**, Catalina 30, Joe Askins/Ray Hall; 2) **Huge**, Catalina 30, Amanda Deisher; 3) **Goose**, Catalina 30, Mike Kastrop. (5 boats)

NON-SPINNAKER — 1) **Popeye & I**, Cal 9.2, Ruth Summers; 2) **Seaview**, C&C 115, Pete Hamm. (2 boats)

Complete results: [www.southbeachyc.org](http://www.southbeachyc.org)

### REDWOOD CUP #2 (SeqYC, 12/16):

1) **White Dove**, Beneteau 40.7, Mike Garl; 2) **Magic**, Express 27, Steve Klein; 3) **Made Easy**, Beneteau 42, Jim Peterson. (12 boats)

Complete results: [www.sequoiayc.org](http://www.sequoiayc.org)