

Guide to the 2021 ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES



After the-year-that-wasn't, sailors are eager to get back on the racecourse here at the 2021 Rolex Big Boat Series. For the first time in a long time, all three StFYC flag officers have entered their boats, with Commodore **Bill Dana** racing his newly purchased Santa Cruz 52 *Pinball Wizard* in ORR, Vice Commodore **Pete Gilmore** racing *Longboard* in the Cal 40 class and Rear Commodore **Beau Vrolyk** helming *Mayan* in the Classics division.

Here is this year's class breakdown:

J/70s

Ten J/70s will line up, including 2019 winner **John Brigden**, *Cool Story, Bro*, which recently finished 13th at the J/70 Worlds. Keep an eye on **Peter Cameron**'s *Kangaroo Jockey* — he's been racking up podium finishes lately, as well as **Scott Sellers**' *1FA*, who came in 2nd in 2019. These speedsters deliver spray-filled finishes off the Race Deck so watch for them on the early side!

J/88s

This class debuted at RBBS in 2018, and this year's event serves as the J/88 North American Championship, with nine boats competing. All three 2019 podium finishers are back: David Britt's *Split Water*, Gary Panariello's *Courageous* and Jim Hopp's *White Shadow*.

J/105s

This class never misses the party. As of press time, 22 boats were registered, 10 of them from StFYC. 2019 winner *Blackhawk* is back, as well as nearly every other winner for the past decade. The local fleet found a way to keep racing throughout the pandemic, so expect no slack among this class on the water.

Express 37s

The 30th anniversary of their class at RBBS, this year also serves as Express 37s' Pacific Coast Championship. This class is stacked with veteran RBBS competitors, including **Bart Schneider**, who first raced it in an Express 34 in 1987 and says, "I am 79 years old — definitely too old to still be doing this stuff!" Still, he and his *Expeditious* crew are not sitting it out, though regular podium finisher, *Golden Moon*, is.

Cal 40s

A classic racer-cruiser, these boats are a local favorite, with V/C **Pete Gilmore**'s *Longboard*, Rodney Pimentel's *Azure* and Philip Lavelle's *Duende* signed up to compete. As of press time, this class didn't quite have enough entries to qualify for their own start and may be reassigned to an ORR division. Rumors are that if one more boat commits, two more will quickly follow — it would be great to see them performing as a fleet!

ORR A, B & C

The largest number of competitors and the largest boats on the water, the 2021 ORR fleet is stacked with talent — including all three 2019 winners. Watch out for **Dave MacEwen**, sailing his new Rogers 46, *Lucky Duck*, which had an excellent finish in this year's Transpac, and Commodore **Bill Dana**, who's racing MacEwen's previous boat, re-christened *Pinball Wizard*. **Skip Ely**'s *Elyxir*, winner in 2018 and 2019, is one to watch in ORR-A.

Classics

These boats set the standard of timelessness that defines Rolex Big Boat Series. The 2019 winner returns — the nearly 100-year-old *Brigadoon*, owned by S/C **Terry Klaus** and helmed by his daughter, **Lindsey Klaus**. R/C **Beau Vrolyk**'s *Mayan* has been testing their gollywobbler and has a new upwind sail on order, so they'll be in fine fighting shape. New to the competition this year: the 71ft 1924 Nicholson Ketch *Hurrica V*, the 52ft *Kay of Göteborg* Sparkman & Stephens ketch, and the 8-meter *Yucca*.

BY THE NUMBERS

85 Boats racing in 2021

71.5ft LOA of *Merlin*, biggest boat competing

1924 Vintage of oldest entrants, *Brigadoon* and *Hurrica V*

9 Racecourses run simultaneously

56 Editions of Big Boat racing

30 Years of Express 37s competing

9 Years of Sustainability Partnership with Sailors for the Sea

18 Years of Partnership with Rolex

3 Rolex Submariner Watches to be awarded

6 Perpetual Trophies

2 PROs fresh off the Tokyo Olympics — Tom Duggan & Jeff Johnson

VIEWER & VISITOR GUIDE

COVID RULES & REGS

As per the health order issued by San Francisco, vaccination is required to enter any indoor venue in the city. StFYC accepts proof of vaccination in the form of CDC vaccination cards or a QR code issued by the State of California or Clear app.

Please abide by all mask and social distance rules.

To safely accommodate guests, crews and members, all large social events will be hosted outside, on the East Lawn.

RACING SCHEDULE

Racing takes place Thursday, September 16 through Sunday, September 19, with first gun sounding at 1100 hours each morning. Race Committee intends to hold seven races with a combination of windward-leeward races and Bay tours. Look for some fleets finishing off the Race Deck during the first race of each day. The Classics will start from the Race Deck and all fleets will finish off the Race Deck for the final race of the day. Grab a beverage and watch spinnakers fly by at around 1600 hours!

TROPHY CEREMONY

The Trophy Ceremony will be outside in the Rolex Regatta Tent on the East Lawn on Sunday, September 19 after racing, at approximately 1600. It will feature a regatta wrap-up video followed by the presentation of six perpetual trophies and Rolex timepieces. Watch the livestream on the Rolex Big Boat Series Facebook page.

REGATTA PLAZA

Located by the guest docks, each morning will feature Grab & Go breakfast items for cash or charge to member accounts. In the afternoons, check back for cold beer.

REGATTA SWAG & GEAR

Official event merchandise from Pirates Lair is for sale in the Domino Room from 0800-2000 daily. The StFYC Ketch All

is also open. Regatta Sponsor Mustang Survival will be selling sailing gear in the Regatta Plaza.

BE GREEN

The 2021 RBBS is certified as a Platinum Level Clean Regatta with Sailors for the Sea—its highest distinction, meaning it meets certain sustainability and environmental initiatives. Help by bringing your own water bottle to refill at stations in the Clubhouse and the Regatta Plaza. All Club-provided cups, plates and containers will be biodegradable and all food waste will be composted.

CLUB DINING

Dining is available in the Main Dining Room and Clippership. All menus are also available for takeaway Thursday-Friday, 12:00pm-8:30pm; Saturday & Sunday 11:00am-8:30pm. Place your orders using the StFYC app or at the Front Desk. Order food to-go and enjoy it outside or on the docks!

PARKING

The East lot is reserved for members and trailers. The West lot remains a public lot, accessible first-come, first-served. Cars parked in a restricted zone, an event-specific reserved parking spot, or blocking access will be towed. Please don't leave any valuables in your car. All trailers must register with the StFYC Race Office to receive a required permit.

GUESTS IN THE CLUB

Unaccompanied guests, whether participating in the regatta or sponsored by a member, must check in at the Front Desk upon arrival to receive a Guest Card and provide a credit card for all charges incurred while at the Club. Visiting sailors and unaccompanied guests must have their Guest Cards or Competitor Badge on their person. All visitors and guests must be vaccinated to enter the Clubhouse.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- 1000-1800** Registration & Check-in
- 1800** Competitors' Briefing & Commodore's Reception, *Rolex Regatta Tent*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- 0730** Grab & Go Breakfast for purchase, *Regatta Plaza*
- 1100** First Warning Race 1 followed by Race 2, Race Deck Spectating
- 1600** Livestream Racing, *Big Boat Series Facebook page*
- 1700** Regatta Social Sponsored by Mustang Survival & Newfront Insurance, *Rolex Regatta Tent*
- 1800** Rolex Owners' Dinner, Invitation only

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- 0730** Grab & Go Breakfast for purchase, *Regatta Plaza*
- 1100** First Warning Race 3 followed by Race 4, Race Deck Spectating
- 1600** Livestream Racing, *Big Boat Series Facebook page*
- 1700** Mount Gay Rum Party, *Rolex Regatta Tent*

Competitors must show event badge; non-competitors may purchase wristband for \$25

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 0730** Grab & Go Breakfast for purchase, *Regatta Plaza*
- 1100** First Warning Race 5 followed by Race 6, Race Deck Spectating
- 1600** Livestream Racing, *Big Boat Series Facebook page*
- 1930** Crew Dinner, *Main Dining Room & Clippership - RSVP required*
- 1930** J/88 North Americans Dinner, *Starting Line Room - RSVP required*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- 0730** Grab & Go Breakfast for purchase, *Regatta Plaza*
- Pre-race** Sailors Salute, Flowers dropped by "A" Buoy
- 1100** First Warning Race 7 Bay Tour, Race Deck Spectating
- 1600** Trophy Ceremony, *Rolex Regatta Tent*

FOLLOW THE ACTION

All finishes will be livestreamed on Facebook @rolexbigboatseries, at around 1600 daily. You can follow the action on Instagram @bigboatseries. Use the QR codes to access the latest news, results and photos.



NEWS



RESULTS



PHOTOS