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**Photo Editors:** *High-resolution digital color photography & event logo art is available upon request.*

*High Speed, Stable Press Boat Available on race day; we'll make your deadline!*

**News/Feature Editors:** *Advance interviews can be arranged with competitors.*

June 22, 2007



## 30th ANNUAL MCNISH CLASSIC YACHT RACE

*End of an Era; Race Founder McNish Retiring*

**Channel Islands Harbor, CA** – When they start the **McNish Classic Yacht Race** on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007, it will mark the third decade milestone for “woodies” on the water. Sailed just outside *Channel Islands Harbor*, the race is one of four gingerly contested regattas on the western seaboard attracting a mix of veteran and novice sailors from distant ports joining local skippers for classic racing.

*“We’ve had a lot of fun through the years,” noted race founder Dick McNish, 80, who will retire after this year’s event after sailing every race in different boats, “The wooden boat people come up and everyone has a good time renewing the friendships and showing off their old boats.”*

Sponsored by the **Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club**, the living history fleet consists of sloops, cutters, ketches, yawls, schooners and tiny thistles. All designed before 1952, the yachts range in size from a diminutive 17 feet to breath-taking 82-feet. **Mumm’s Champagne** presents the **Strathmore Cup** winner their weight in champagne. Defending Strathmore Cup Champion Silvan, the 30-foot Cutter raced by Dan Israel of Woodland Hills, also won in 1992 skippering another classic yacht, *Adios*, will defend his title.

Conceived in 1977, the race is sailed on a 17-mile triangular course designed so that each classic sailboat skipper -- even those with only basic sailing and seamanship knowledge -- can be competitive. Using a handicap system specially developed for classics, the finish is a dramatic, colorful visual display at the harbor break wall due to the inverted start. Starting the slowest first, the handicapper’s goal is to have all the boats to finish at the same time.



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## McNish Classic Yacht Race *Strathmore Cup Winners*

Year	Yacht	Skipper
1978	Freedom	Charles Baum
1979	Vignette II	Walter Russakoff
1980	South Pacific	C. Buesenkell
1981	Hatsokoi	Jerry Morrill
1982	Windfall	Ron McGowan
1983	Felisi	Bryon Dennehy
1984	Undine	Gene Beville
1985	Undine	Gene Beville
1986	Moorea	Garth Schaefer
1987	Survivor	Don Greene
1988	Pirate	Dennis Sullivan
1989	Man O' War	Jim Squire
1990	Dharma	Mike Bray
1991	Man O' War	Jim Squire
1992	Adios	Dan Israel
1993	Encore	Gabriella Gyurko
1994	Vignette II	Walter Russakoff
1995	Gold Eagle	Mike Ludwig
1996	Charity	Kym & Armand Renga
1997	Gold Eagle	Mike Ludwig
1998	Charity	Kym & Armand Renga
1999	Distant Star	Bill MacDuffee
2000	Charity	Kym & Armand Renga
2001	Windsong	Greg Wood
2002	Pacifica	Doug Jones
2003	Foxen	Tracy & Pete Caras
2004	Vignette II	Walter Russakoff
2005	Miramar	Paul Scripps
2006	Silvan	Dan Israel

5 boats have won multiple times

*Charity* and *Vignette II* are tied with 3 wins each.

*Gold Eagle*, *Man O' War* and *Undine* have all won twice.

*Walter Russakoff* is the only skipper to have sailed in EVERY race with the same boat.

Winners represent every type of vessel – sloop, cutter, ketch, yawl, schooner and even tiny thistles.

Race founder *Dick McNish* donated the Strathmore Cup and has each year tried in vain to win it back.

