

# CYC PORTLAND OREGON OFFSHORE



Approaching Dunze Rock, the breeze started to back off into the low 20s and shift as the influence of the Olympic Range impacted direction and pressure. We entered the Strait of Juan de Fuca at dinner, shifted to a head sail reach, and eventually the forecasted westerly built, with the rain subsiding and an easy run down to Race Passage unfolded.

As is often the case, the building westerly peaked near Sooke Harbor and pushed the three IRC boats (*Neptune's Car*, the Fox 44 *Ocelot* and the Perry 65 *Icon*) through the race at top speed, aided by a large flood. Talk about the stars aligning for a record breaking race! The breeze held into the

The 38th annual Oregon Offshore International race was wet and (at times) a wild affair, with record shattering elapsed, and corrected finishing times, some damage and large stories to be told for years to come!

The only mark in the course is the whistle buoy mark on Dunze Rock, northwest of Cape Flattery, to starboard, and finishing at the Swiftsure finish line on the Ogden Point breakwater, Victoria BC. It's 193 miles up the coast from Astoria to Victoria.

Starting off buoy N2 (NW entrance to the Columbia River Bar), the fleet of 29 boats ranging from two sleds to three Santa Cruz 27s headed northwards in confused seas and 20 knot gusty south easterlies.

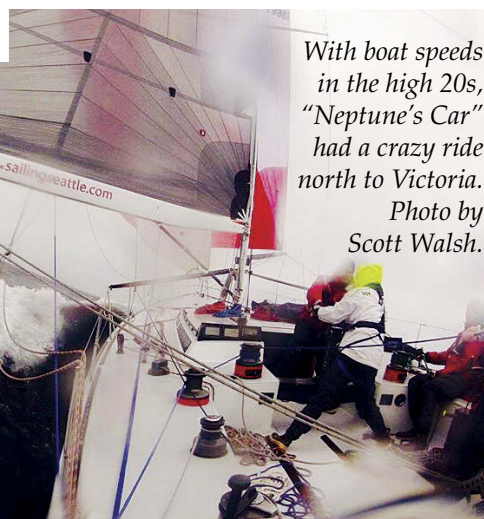
The rain and breeze continued to build off Grays Harbor, eventually gusting over 30 knots. On *Neptune's Car*, we saw a peak gust of 36 knots, and GPS verified peak boat speed of 28.2 knots.

*Above: The wet and wild start of the 38th Oregon Offshore.*

*Lower left: Steve Moshofsky's "Wave Dancer" is doing exactly what she's named for!*

*Photos by Maria Swearingen.*

Midday the breeze continued to hold in the 25 to 30 knot range, and started its forecasted, movement to west. The seas built, the rain pelted and the sled ride continued, with drivers compelled to focus or risk a messy, and likely expensive, wipe out! Kite trimmers and their grinders were rotated out as total concentration was a necessity.



*With boat speeds in the high 20s, "Neptune's Car" had a crazy ride north to Victoria. Photo by Scott Walsh.*

finish at Ogden Point with all three IRC boats smashing the previous elapsed time (set by *Rage* in 2000) by nearly five hours!

*Icon* finished at 11:06:20 PM PDT, an elapsed time of 14.56.20, and besting the former record by 4.50.21. *Neptune's Car* finished seven minutes later, and *Ocelot* 23 minutes later. If someone bet



*"ICON" finishing the 193 mile Oregon Offshore in under 15 hours. Photo by Jan Anderson.*

you could sail from Astoria to Victoria Harbor with ONE tack and ONE jibe, in under 15 hours, you likely wouldn't take the bet, but there you have it!

What is equally remarkable is the overall fleet results. The overall PHRF winners were also some of the smallest boats in the fleet. Overall PHRF winner was the Bellingham based Santa Cruz 27 *Blade Runner*, followed by the Portland based J-105 *Free bowl of Soup* and 3rd honors going to Portland based Santa Cruz 27 *Kokopelli*. Portland based *Ocelot* won the IRC class.

This race was one for the ages, and this article and space don't practically allow for all the stories and images that should be shared. There is lots more at: [www.oregonoffshore.org](http://www.oregonoffshore.org)

If there was a key takeaway in this event for this author, it is to stay SAFE! Lifejackets and harnesses were mandatory and not just an afterthought. It was serious sailing and serious FUN!

by Matthew Wood

Cl	OA	Boat	Type
<b>IRC Class</b>			
1	5	Ocelot	Fox 44
2	9	Neptune's Car	SC70
3		ICON	Custom 65
<b>Cruising Class</b>			
1	27	Souffle	Cal34
<b>Class A</b>			
1	6	Time Bandit	J/120
2	7	Riva	J/46
3	8	Anam Cara	J/122
4	14	Pamana Red	Mumm 36
5	18	Kinetic	Beneteau 47.7
6	21	Tabu	Farr44
<b>Class B</b>			
1	2	Free Bowl of Soup	j/105
2	11	Turnagain	Bene Oceanis 5
3	12	Ion	Beneteau 43
4	15	Siren	Beneteau 36.7
5	19	Velocity	J/42
6	26	Wave Dancer	New York 36
<b>Class C</b>			
1	4	California Girl	Cal 40
2	10	Passepartout	Stevens 47
3	13	Avalon	Contest 44
4	16	Peregrine	Catalina 38
<b>Class D</b>			
1	17	WyEast	Cascade 36
2	20	Shamrock	Yankee 30
3	23	Katzenjammer	C&C 34
4	25	Aja	Ericson 35-2
5	24	Sol Pacifico	Catalina 470
<b>Class Santa Cruz 27</b>			
1	1	Blade Runner	SC27
2	3	Kokopelli	SC27
3	22	Kaos	SC27

courtesy of [www.oregonoffshore.org](http://www.oregonoffshore.org)  
dns & dnf not shown

## Whidbey Island Race Week July 19-25

We start the weekend off with Dinghies Whidbey Island. Do you have a small sailboat or catamaran? Has it been sitting on the side of your house and need to get it out? Well come and do this exciting event. We have a great dinner on Saturday night. Sunday night is the awards for DWI and welcoming party for WIRW. Evening parties this year have great adult and youth beverages.

Monday thru Friday we have PHRF and One Design racing just outside of the Oak Harbor Marina in Saratoga Passage or Penn Cove. Sunshine, good breeze and a weeks worth of memories is all you need to make you come back every year. We have long time sponsors like Fisheries Supply, Quantum Sails, Sail Northwest and CSR Marine that have been essential to the event. We also have exciting news that next year Schelleen and Charlie Rathkopf will be taking over. For details and to register, visit: [www.whidbeyislandraceweek.com](http://www.whidbeyislandraceweek.com)

## Oak Harbor YC Round Whidbey Race May 3-4

The race certainly started out slow early Saturday morning with a nine boat fleet. Shannon Buys', *Vertigo*, nailed the start and led the fleet south. The SE breeze began to build quickly to high teens as the fleet was met with a solid 2-3 knot current ebbing north out of Admiralty Inlet. The fleet started to separate with *Family Affair*, *Vertigo*, and *Hijinks* short tacking the west shore of Whidbey for current relief.

The breeze then built into the 20s and we quickly reefed our main near Ebey's Landing. We pressed on knowing we would have to punch through the current at Keystone eventually. It was a brutal 30 minutes of hard treadmill sailing against a boiling opposing current, but we eventually broke free.

We continued to hug the west shore of Whidbey as pressure continued to increase at Bush Point. We rounded Possession Point at 4:50pm and it was time for the main event. We excitedly

## The Oregon Bridge to Bridge Offshore Race August 16-17

This race is one of the most exciting sailboat races in the Pacific Northwest! Sail south through 100 miles of sunshine, blue skies and the most beautiful coastline on the West Coast. From the mouth of the Columbia to the mouth of the Yaquina in Newport, Oregon. The race is handicapped at just under 100 miles and is usually a starlit overnight race.

This Northwest version of the Ensenada Race is a PIYA Category 1 offshore race. Plan a stay in Newport and explore our fabulous central Oregon coast, or get together with your fellow competitors and race back to Astoria.

Email Mike Blackburn at [mblackburn@comcast.net](mailto:mblackburn@comcast.net) or call (541) 570-0498 for an entry form/notice of race. Skippers meeting is in Astoria on the evening of August 15. Race starts the following morning, August 16 and finishes with a BBQ dinner and awards on Sunday afternoon.

hoisted the spinnaker and soon as we hoisted on our only spinnaker halyard, the head of the sail came right back down sans halyard! Kevin, being the lightest, was sent to retrieve our halyard. Crisis averted - Kite back up and off we went running 9-12 knots. The kite ride was utterly amazing and without incident as five guys with huge smiles crossed the finish line a little over 12 hours after starting the race.

We had truly fantastic conditions and managed to sail *Hijinks* around the Island at an average VMG speed of 5.3 knots. We will certainly be back next year!

by Scott Ellis, "Hijinks"

PI	Boat	Skipper
1	Hijinks	Scott Ellis
2	Vertigo	Shannon Buys
3	Family Affair	Thomas Buus
4	Endless Winter	Chip Handewith
dnf not shown		