



Blessing OF THE Fleet 2010

March 20th, 2010

Special points of interest:

- Fishermen's Memorial Service
- Survival Suit Races
- Newport Local Clergy
- Blessing of the Fleet
- Highliner Competition

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Fishermen's Memorial Service by Maria Rock & Connie Kennedy

The day began with clear skies and calm weather as the Fishermen's Memorial Service at 8:00 AM when USCG Motor lifeboat Station Yaquina Bay signaled the Air Station North Bend search and rescue helicopter to hover and drop a floral memorial wreath in remembrance of Newport's local fishermen lost at sea. USCG Color Guard placed the Colors and Pastor Dave Edwards of Central

Coast Assembly of God Church, shared a short message in support of those in attendance. Several of the attending families have lost loved ones at sea and return each year to the annual service inside the Fishermen's Memorial Sanctuary at Yaquina Bay State Park. Pastor Edwards Wife Nancy shared a roll call of remembrance of Newport fishermen who have died in the past year. Bob



Flowers adorn the Fishermen's Memorial Sanctuary for the annual Fishermen's Memorial Service. Photo by Sabrina Messenger

and Kim Cusick, Worship leaders at the church, sang and played "God's Restless Sea" a song they wrote especially for the event.

Photo's by Maria Rock





Luke Welch (team F/V Excalibur) subbing in for the Loyalty Days Court assisting his "team mate" to insure she's properly suited up. Photo by Maria Rock

Teams-of-three: don survival suits while being timed, enter the bay and swim out to a raft - anchored about 50 feet from the [Newport Tradewinds](#) dock.



Retired Coast Guard CO; volunteer fire-fighter and marine safety instructor; Tom McAdams will give a marine safety equipment demonstration and call the races. Photo by Maria Rock

Survival Suit Races by Maria Rock & Connie Kennedy

Next the competitive Survival Suit Races were held at Newport Tradewinds Dock and teams showed up with their game faces on. United States Coast Guard Station Yaquina Bay was determined to regain their title and entered 3 teams in hopes to win. However, the crew from the F/V Excalibur; Chris Retherford (22.55), Mike Retherford (22.47), and Luke Welch (25.68),



Luke Welch, Chris & Mike Retherford Photo by Maria Rock

were more than prepared and defended their title for 1st place team with a time of 25.68 seconds. (That's getting in their suits, jumping into the cold bay and swimming out to a raft and climbing in; all three men in the raft in 25.68 seconds!) However, USCG Team Alpha team mate Brant Soderland captured the prize

for the fastest individual time with a blazing speed of 22.08 seconds! Mike Retherford's time of 22.47 also landed him in 2nd place individual with Chris Retherford right behind him in 3rd with his time of 22.55 seconds. Luke Welch was honored for his honorable efforts with the Loyalty Days Court team as their 3rd team mate and

assisting the two of them into their suits and was the last one in the water.

Second place team was the crew from the USCG Team Charlie; Casey McDougal (27.05), Kacy Jones

(22.58) and John Moore (25.10). The USCG Team Bravo; Louis Silveria (27.80), Kyle Schneider (27.40), and Jeremy Seeley (24.27), deserve a round of applause with a respectable team time of 27.80 seconds for the 3rd place slot!

Don't forget about

the ladies! Team Kennedy Girls; Jordan Kennedy (52.55), Silken Kennedy (31.31) and Meghan Kennedy



Meghan, Silken and Jordan Kennedy Photo by Maria Rock

(53.14), took the prize for fastest women's team and Silken also won fastest individual woman with her time of 31.31 seconds. Hatfield Student Organization team mate Elina Fernandez took 2nd place individual woman with her time of 50.13 seconds followed by Jordan Kennedy in 3rd with a time of 52.55 seconds.

Ashley Holten & Simone Washington Photo by Maria Rock



Newport Local Clergy by Maria Rock & Connie Kennedy

Good weather was a factor the day before sending several of the lead vessels out fishing. Those who stayed in port were greeted with a mix of spring-like weather including fierce winds followed by the marine layer and more sun breaks. Boatloads of friends and family loaded the fishing, charter and pleasure vessels to celebrate and be blessed before the upcoming Oregon pink shrimp season.

Local clergy who asked the Blessings on board the historic

USCG Motor lifeboat Victory, included returning pastors; Pastor Glen Small; First Baptist Church of Newport and Pastor Ed Milken; Atonement Lutheran Church in Newport. First time pastors new to our area were Major John Tumey of the Salvation Army Church and Reverend Andy Wittenburg of Seventh Day Adventist Church

in Newport. Kyra Morgan with KNPT 1310 broadcast the procession from the Victory along with the Newport Loyalty Days Court Ashley Holten-Terrel and Simone Washington who chose the F/V Kylie Lynn as the best decorated vessel.

Photo by Terry Dillman



The Ribbon Trail commemorates all the men and women who have lost their lives at sea. Photo by Maria Rock

F/V Kylie Lynn was chosen as the 2010 Blessing of the Fleet "Best Decked Vessel"

Blessing of the Fleet by Maria Rock & Connie Kennedy

Turn out including commercial fishing vessels, charter vessels, pleasure craft, research vessels, US Coast Guard motor lifeboats, and the USCG Search and Rescue helicopter, as boatloads of family and friends turned out for the festivities asking blessings for a safe

and prosperous season while celebrating Newport's commercial fishing community. In all, there were 27 registered vessels and several that just jumped in line to receive a blessing. Broadcasting the ceremony live on radio station KNPT were Kyra Morgan on board

the MLB Victory and Dave Miller from the Coast Guard station. Sharing history and color commentary was longtime Newport fisherman Joe Rock.



Longtime Newport fisherman Joe Rock sharing history and color commentary with Dave Miller on air. Photo by Maria Rock



Pacific Vogue Photography

Ultrasonic DJ Service

Historic F/V Chelsea Rose

Tom Curry

Schiewe Marine

Englund Marine

F/V Blue Fox

F/V Eddie & Rod

F/V Excalibur

F/V Kylie Lynn

F/V Lady Law

F/V Last Dance

F/V Last Straw

F/V Michele Ann

F/V Miss Yvonne

F/V Perseverance

F/V Western Breeze

F/V Winona J

Blessing of the Fleet 2010

Highliner Competition by Maria Rock & Connie Kennedy

The Highliner Competition highlights some of the many skills needed to be a successful commercial fisherman. They added the element of competing for time and prize money and upped the ante by inviting fishermen from Astoria who have their own annual competition in September, to compete. There were a total of 19 men, and 1 woman that showed up a mission to prove to all they had what it took to be named Newport's 1st Highliner for 2010.

The weather changed yet again turning cold and drizzly but that couldn't dampen the spirits of the fishermen competing. Stacking



Newport Highliner in the 16-39 age group, Ryan Barrett won with his time of 4:36. Photo by Maria Rock

crab pots, tying knots, splicing line, mending nets, tying buoys, shoveling ice, coiling line, and hitting a target with a life ring before ringing the bell to stop the clock. That was the competition and the clock was ticking. Each competitor raced aside another but he who had the best time won.

Ryan Barrett from the F/V Eddie & Rod was the individual in the 16-39 year-old group that pulled out all the stops

and grabbed the brass ring with an amazing time of 4:36 naming him Newport's 1st Highliner. Chris Retherford from the F/V Excalibur took 2nd place with his respectable time of 4:41 with Mike Giles, Astorian and Champion of the Highliner Competition in Astoria taking 3rd place with his time of 5:01.

In the 40 & over group, Mike Retherford Sr. was the individual to "walk" away with the \$500 cash prize with his time of 4:47 with Sara Skamsner taking 2nd place with her time of 5:53. Astorian Martin McMaster took 3rd place with a time of 6:20.



Photo's by Maria Rock



Newport Fishermen's Wives couldn't have added this new annual event without the help of local sponsors; Yaquina Boat Equipment, Bornstein Seafood's, Ocean Star Fisheries, Foulweather Trawl, Pacific Vogue Photography, Port of Newport, Pacific Seafood's, Ultrasonic DJ Services, Historic F/V Chelsea Rose, Englund Marine, Schiewe Marine, Tom Curry, F/V Blue Fox, F/V Eddie & Rod, F/V Excalibur, F/V Kylie Lynn, F/V Lady Law, F/V Last Dance, F/V Last Straw, F/V Michele Ann, F/V Miss Yvonne, F/V Perseverance, F/V Western Breeze, F/V Winona J.