

Bobbi Tosse Biography

Bobbi joined Berkeley Yacht Club (BYC) in 1971. She learned how to sail with her first husband, Lloyd Tosse, on their Columbia 26, *Altair*.

In the early 1970's, after her divorce, Bobbi and a friend bought the Coronado 25, *Naressia*, which they cruised and raced together for many years. In the early 1980's, she started dating John Clauser, who convinced her to focus on racing instead of cruising. In 1985, *Naressia* became Coronado 25 YRA class champion, and second in the Coronado 25 Nationals. She raced in the 1986 Pacific Cup as skipper, to make a statement for women's racing and for women skippers. John agreed to support her in this effort, and to be her navigator. They chartered the Farr 36 *Sweet Okole*, and were first in class (IOR) and first overall!

In 1998 John and Bobbi did the Pac Cup on the chartered Farr 36 *Petard*. Bobbi did the 1992 race on *La Caval*. On their Farr 40 one-ton, *Bodacious*, they both did 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, and 2004 Pac Cups. They got a few more trophies (second place in '98 and '00) along the way. In odd years, they did Costal Cup races to Catalina, Santa Barbara, and Ventura, as well as YRA ocean races. All of this on top of a heavy race schedule on the bay. Bobbi frequently skippered *Bodacious* in Women Skipper's races. She almost always won.

John and Bobbi got married in 1996. For a wedding present, their crew bought them a new #3 jib for *Bodacious* as an inducement to do the Big Boat Series. In the Big Boat Series, they trophied two years in a row. They continued racing the Big Boat Series when they traded in *Bodacious* for their Reichel Pugh One Design 48, *Bodacious+*.

About 1975, Bobbi took over being the BYC race chair. She held that position until her death. She put together a world-class race committee. She was solicited by other yacht clubs, and became Principal Race Officer at the founding of the Pacific Cup Yacht Club. She maintained a position on Pacific Cup YC Board of Directors until her death. Bobbi also was BYC Commodore in 1993.

Professionally, Bobbi was a CPA tax accountant, having learned her trade at Cal Berkeley. Three of her more important clients, whom she served for free for many years, were BYC, YRA, and the Pacific Cup Yacht Club. She

also served on the Board of Directors, was Treasurer, and ran many races for all three organizations.

She contributed to revolutionizing women's racing on the bay. Among her many accomplishments, she converted BYC's patronizing Powder Puff race into BYC's Women's Skipper series, and added other women's sailing events.

Bobbi died in 2023. Her presence on the bay will be sorely missed.