

Local Vessels Fairing Well In Transpac Race

By **Kerry Methner** / CASA

THE EXCITEMENT OF THE FINISH LINE is drawing close for all the sailboats entered into the 46th running of the Transpac including two vessels from the Santa Barbara Yacht Club. Those two include *Bebe*, captained by Charles Browning, and *Prevail*, captained by Bill Guilfoyle.

At just past half-way, Browning wrote in a report for *Bebe's* facebook page, "I was really expecting this to be the report that had us giving up 3rd to maybe 5th but *au contraire*. We are still in 3rd. If only by the skin on a bee's knees."

At 780 miles to go the skipper wrote: "To say we are a ragtag group is an



Prevail's crew: **Duncan Shea, Marcel Tremblay, Bill Guilfoyle, Lauren Amery, Mike Amery, Frank Doyle, David Hodges, and Rick Valdes**

understatement. YOU don't pull over in the middle of the ocean and take a nap. You go full out 24/7 until the race is over."

The race which accepts vessels between 30 and 100 feet long, according to Sail-World.com, is "the oldest and longest enduring ocean race in the world...2225

miles of open-ocean between San Pedro, California and Honolulu, Hawaii."

Folks who didn't make the fleet can participate in the exhilaration by tracking the fleet on-line at www.transpacrace.com. It's even possible to single out your favorites and focus on them.

Led by Charles Browning, *Bebe* also has video posted on YouTube. According to Margo Browning, this is Charles' first cross Pacific race after over 30 years of experience in and around the Channel Islands. His unique perspective had *Bebe* head north of the pack at the beginning of the race, only to join them in a good position recently. Right now it looks as if *Bebe* could hit the finish line in first in their class, but with handicap may actually place third. Only the winds, water, and sailors can tell.

Either way, "There are no losers, only winners," according to Margo. "To race and finish in the Transpac puts each crew member in an elite status among sailors."

Visit the race on-line at www.transpacrace.com



Courtesy Photo

Santa Barbara's Bebe



Courtesy Photo

Bebe's crew: **Jesse Bickley, Ed deVicente, Stephen Stowe, Charles Browning, Mike Wapner, Andrew Nunn, and Mickey Ryan**

Photo by friscille@santabarbaraseen.com