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Saint Francis Yacht Club – Rolex Big Boat Series Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TP52/IRC WEST COAST RACE SERIES

TP52 Class and IRC 40 footers to join new regatta series and 2011 Rolex Big Boat Series

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. (March 9, 2011) -- The St. Francis Yacht Club (www.stfyc.com) today announces the creation of a new four-regatta series for the TP52 IRC Class and 40 footer IRC class. The series will consist of four regattas in proximate date range, designed to coincide with the Rolex Big Boat Series, and provide an opportunity for East Coast boats to compete with their West Coast rivals.

“Earlier in the year, we learned that some of the East Coast TP52s were interested in coming to San Francisco to sail against their West Coast peers in the Rolex Big Boat Series,” said Rolex Big Boat Series regatta Chairman, Norman Davant. “It seems that with the America’s Cup now coming to San Francisco, there are a lot of people wanting to sail in the same venue as the Cup. The new series will be a great season capper to the East Coast racing calendar, while giving the fleet an opportunity to experience a variety of San Francisco race formats.”

The St. Francis Yacht Club worked with the TP52 fleet to devise the series that will include the Aldo Alessio Ocean Race on August 26-28, followed two weeks later by the Rolex Big Boat Series on September 8-11, and then two weeks later, by a newly created event, the “West Coast Shootout”, to take place on September 24-25, with the final race in the series to include the Great Pumpkin Regatta– one of San Francisco’s classic races - on October 29-30.

As well, a newly created, “West Coast Shootout” will be a two-day event organized by the St. Francis Yacht Club for TP52s and invited 40-footers. It will be sailed on the City front, the same race area that will be used by the upcoming America’s Cup. “The West Coast Shootout promises to become an annual year-end favorite here in San Francisco” said Kevin Reeds, Vice Chair of the Rolex Big Boat Series. The winner of the West Coast Shootout will have their boat name engraved on a new perpetual trophy which will feature a .357 caliber pistol.

More about the Rolex Big Boat Series

The Rolex Big Boat Series, which will mark its 47th year in 2011, annually attracts many world-caliber sailors, all of whom are eager to win one of the six specially engraved Rolex timepieces given to the winners of the St. Francis Yacht Club's Perpetual Trophies. From its inception, the Rolex Big Boat Series (www.rolexbigboatseries.com) has showcased top sailing talent and boats. From the glory days of SORC, IOR and IMS to today's Grand Prix and One Design classes, the Rolex Big Boat Series has continued to be the West Coast's premier regatta where the best of the best meet for four days of challenging racing.

About the St. Francis Yacht Club

The St. Francis Yacht Club was founded in 1927 and has been host to many of the most prestigious national and international championships in sailing. With over 40 regattas on its calendar annually, and as home to the West Coast’s premiere regatta, the Rolex Big Boat Series, the St. Francis Yacht Club (www.stfyc.com) is widely regarded as having the top racing program and race management in the country.