

SAIL AMERICA NEWS

Monthly News for
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WAYPOINTS COVER STORY



Not yet 30, Genny Tulloch has a true sailor's resume, from being named the Quantum Female Sailor of the year while at Harvard in 2004, to appearing as a member of the youngest crew (by average age) to compete in the Transpac aboard *Morning Light* (which was covered in a Disney documentary in 2008), to competing in the semifinals in the Olympic trials for 2012. Genny was a commentator for the America's Cup races in San Francisco this summer, covering the action on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (if you don't follow her, you should), as well as hosting the [AC Uncut](#), a YouTube show that receives over 30,000 hits and covers everything from sailor superstitions to what it's like on a camera boat during the fast-paced and adrenaline-filled

America's Cup. We caught up with Genny just after ORACLE TEAM USA brought home the Cup after an amazing comeback and a fierce battle with EMIRATES TEAM NEW ZEALAND.

Sail America: What was the feeling in San Francisco after ORACLE won?

Genny Tulloch: AMAZING. Tremendous. The city literally came out in full force on the final day—a Wednesday—and we had to close access to both of our venues at one point because they were too full! The amount of support for the hometown team at the end was just spectacular... as was the celebration afterwards of course!

SA: You were primarily a dinghy and keelboat sailor, but reading some past interviews with you, it's clear you like to try various types of sailboats to grow as a sailor and competitor. What prepared you for covering the America's Cup?

GT: Yeah, aside from dinghies and keelboats I also loved skiff sailing and team racing in college, so the match racing Olympic campaign seemed a natural fit. Then, from there I was brought into the 2010 AC to cover it as a commentator, then continued trying out/working with this America's Cup Event Authority when possible during our Olympic sailing. As a competitor who has been

interviewed before it's easier to know what questions to ask, when to ask and how, and obviously I'm friends with a lot of the guys from Olympic sailing, or have coached them or been coached by them, so I was a friendly face in the media when I started doing the interviews. And of course my time with *Morning Light* meant I was a bit more comfortable with cameras

SA: There is a [YouTube clip](#) of you at the helm of ORACLE racing's AC 45. Obviously, that helped you as a commentator for these races, but what were some surprises for you?

GT: Surprises... Literally shocked by how close the racing was in the end, and how spectacular the final really was. I mean, we knew it would be amazing, compelling racing, but you literally could not script a story like this because no one would believe it!

SA: Do you have previous experience with this type of boat?

GT: Not really, though it does feel much like sailing on skiffs—really high-performance fast boats.

SA: How did it handle?

GT: I think in the video I say driving felt "so smooth, like butter"... and I still agree that's what it feels like driving, but being on board is tricky it's much more jerky... much like being in a car when someone else is driving and swerving and you don't quite know what's coming next...

SA: What did you think of that wing and those hydrofoils?

GT: The wingsails were great but the hydrofoiling is really what became so stunning in this America's Cup—and the design and technology and advancements behind them in such little time. Truly incredible, so much hard work and dedication by design and build teams for it.

SA: How did you get involved with AC Uncut and how did you prepare for that?

GT: Literally was just told by our CEO that he wanted me to be on camera interviewing the sailors to get the more human element of the sport out to the general public, so went for it from there...

SA: How did your knowledge of San Francisco Bay prepare you as a commentator and were you watching some tactical moves thinking...whoa.

GT: I have competed in multiple world championships out here and lived in the SF Bay Area for about seven years, so yeah definitely know the currents and the race course well and for sure was watching the racing always with an eye to what call I would have made, was it the same or different. I loved listening to the inboards of the teams and hearing their communications and their decision-making processes.

SA: What was your favorite moment?

GT: Must have been the final race. The energy in the Park was palpable, the tension incredible, the kiwis leading off the start and then the second upwind the Americans taking over... Literally, couldn't script this storyline!

SA: What do you say to people who say, "Wait. People watch sailing?" How do you explain the America's Cup to a layman?

GT: I think finally this America's Cup means we may not have to anymore, because people *are* watching and *did* watch! But there's still a long way to go to keep the momentum rolling and keep the eyes of the world on our sport. I think this was absolutely the most compelling racing we could ask for though in the America's Cup Finals, and if anyone asks in the future at least we'll be able to point them to a thrilling highlight reel of the sailing!

SA: You also covered the AC Red Bull series. What's the difference between covering the "established" AC racers and covering the youth sailors? Are you looking for up-and-comers and do you see more aggressive sailing behavior or the opposite?

GT: The Red Bull Youth America's Cup was an incredible event in so many ways. The racing was much better than we ever could have expected of 'youth' teams, the sailors themselves all wonderful to work with from a media point of view, so helpful and happy to be interviewed or do anything that was needed, which isn't always as easy with the AC teams who have busier schedules and routines.

SA: Do you work with young people to get them involved with the sport? If so, how?

GT: The America's Cup has a pathway for getting non-sailing youth involved through a partnership with SailSFBay.com and US Sailing, and when we brought groups on site I would talk with them about sailing and the America's Cup and how it all works and what it all means, but there is always more room here for a bigger and brighter future growth here. I think it's extremely important!!!

SA: What are you planning to do next?

GT: Good question!!!