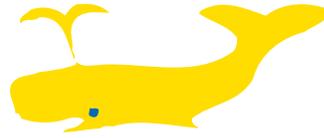


The Whale's Tale

Ballena Bay Yacht Club



Alameda, CA

Volume 2018, Issue 1

January 2018

The Commodore Report

Kathryn Rees



January 2018—a new year! Don't miss the New Year's Round the Island visit to each of the yacht clubs on Alameda. The January 20 *all-you-can-eat Crab Feed* replete with great music is a *do not miss BBYC tradition* (you must buy advance tickets by Jan. 12—\$45). Plus BBYC's first

cruise-out of the year is scheduled for the last weekend in January to Treasure Island Yacht Club. Be sure to go to our website or app to stay on top of all the latest goings on—both on and off the water. BBYC is a great place to hang out. Unlike many clubs, we are open during the week—and our bar prices are great, plus we now have other things to snack on besides popcorn—thanks to our newest Board member, Mark Pavusko. Check it out. Other matters that need our attention:

- **Volunteer Commitment.** BBYC is an all-volunteer club. That is part of what makes us a unique culture full of great camaraderie. We have no staff. As such, we must maintain and expand volunteer engagement. Early in 2016, the Board passed a requirement that every member contribute a five hour volunteer minimum per year. However, if members were unable, or chose not to volunteer five hours, they would have the option to be billed \$100. Jeff Fuller, then Commodore, highlighted this policy several times in his *Whale's Tale* columns throughout 2016. The policy was implemented January 1, 2017. I posted a reminder in May so that all could have ample time to engage. We thank the many of you who were able to step forward to give of your time and talent. We realize that not everyone is available, hence, are exercising the option to pay an additional \$100/year. So if you see an extra \$100 on your bill, this is why. However, if you

feel you have contributed your volunteer hours and we missed it, let us know when and what you did. In the meantime, as we go into 2018, there will be lots of opportunities to volunteer—sit on a committee, help with clean-up or fix-it stuff (anyone know how to clean the popcorn maker?), bartend, cook, set tables, help with Race Night, plant/water flowers—or whatever you can come up with to help the Club thrive and remain vibrant.

- **Social Chair.** *This is our one unfilled Board position.* Outgoing Deborah Draper has gone to great lengths to parse out the various duties so that this is not a daunting position. All events for the year have been scheduled. All first quarter events already have coordinators, sponsors and cooks. **BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR CLUB THAT WE HAVE A SITTING BOARD MEMBER/SOCIAL CHAIR who serves as the overall coordinator.** Please give it some thought. If you have questions, reach out to Deborah or myself. But consider stepping up. There will be a lot of support and wind beneath your wings. And you will have a lot of fun.
- **Automatic Electronic Payments.** Many of you have asked that we come into the 21st century so that you can autopay your dues. Our Treasurer, Larry Conrad, is facilitating just such action. Stay tuned. We will let you know the implementation schedule. This process will not only make dues payment convenient and automatic, it will greatly simplify the life of the BBYC Treasurer! And keeping the life of the BBYC Treasurer stress free is really important!

Upcoming Events

Jan. 1: New Year's Day "Around the Island"

Jan. 6: Membership Meeting/Dinner

Jan. 20: All-you-can-eat Crab Feed Dinner

Jan. 26-28: Treasure Island Cruise-out

<http://www.bbyc.org/calendar.html> or download the BBYC app

BALLENA BAY YACHT CLUB

1150 Ballena Blvd., Alameda, CA 94501
510-523-BBYC (2292)

Commodore

Kathryn Rees (916) 837-9006
commodore@bbyc.org

Vice Commodore

Lu Abel (510) 814-1810
vicecommodore@bbyc.org

Rear Commodore

Tom Burns (510) 239-4197
rearcommodore@bbyc.org

Staff Commodore

Jeff Fuller (510) 851-6382
staffcommodore@bbyc.org

Secretary

Cindy Wagner (415) 686-2872
secretary@bbyc.org

Treasurer

Larry Conrad (919) 360-9330
treasurer@bbyc.org

Port Captain

David Paoletta (505) 401-9621
portcaptain@bbyc.org

Directors

Meg Abularrage (410) 241-3589
directorma@bbyc.org

Ward Fulcher (510) 409-8894
directorwf@bbyc.org

Mark Pavusko (510) 496-1811
directormp@bbyc.org

Race Chair

Gary Helms (510) 865-2511
race@bbyc.org

Cruise-out Chair

Bill Stapp (510) 499-6152
cruise@bbyc.org

Merchandise Chair

Kim Crow (925) 820-3948
merchandise@bbyc.org

Rental Chair/Vice Rear Commodore

Mike Johnson (510) 473-7307
rental@bbyc.org

Webmaster/Whale's Tale Editor

Gwyn Smith (415) 497-8580
editor@bbyc.org

The Whale's Tale is published monthly by the Ballena Bay Yacht Club. Deadline for articles is on the twentieth of the month preceding the date of publication. Articles accepted for publication may have to be edited. Please send submissions to editor@bbyc.org. Photographs are welcome and should include a caption and photo credit.
© 2018 BBYC. All rights reserved.

The Vice-Commodore Report

Lu Abel

One "new" member joined BBYC at the beginning of December, Matt Schuessler. I put "new" in quotes because Matt is a former member of BBYC who is rejoining us. And more than a former member, he served as BBYC Race Chair. Matt now owns BBYC's late Past Commodore Dan Watson's boat, Dixie, that he keeps at Ballena Isle Marina. Please be sure to say hello to Matt and welcome him if you see him at one of our events.

Our 2018 membership cards have been ordered but we're still not sure when they will arrive. A special email will be sent notifying you when they become available. Meanwhile if you need confirmation of your 2018 membership in BBYC for, say, a visit to another club, I'd be happy to send you a special letter.

A joyous holiday season and a happy New Year to each and every one of our members! And please remember that our club thrives and is successful because of our members! Please help bring in new members and remember the many ways you can volunteer to help our club be the wonderful place that it is. **Remember, for every member you bring in that you have signed on the first sponsorship line on the application, \$50 will be credited to your account.**

The Rear Commodore Report

Tom Burns

BBYC saw lots of Holiday Cheer through December as we usher in the New Year. Going forward, we are planning to add a couple more bartending classes by the one and only Scott Shelby, one of our Past Commodores. So stay tuned. Check out the snacks that our newest Board member, Mark Pavusko, put in the case inside the door. This is the honor system. So if you take an item to eat, put your money in the box. We have heard that hungry hoards have been known to abandon their bar glasses in search of food, wishing they could find a snack or something that could be quickly heated in the microwave.

We have heeded the call.

Our intrepid Dave "Tinker" Hall has been gradually divesting himself of BBYC functions—stalwart that he has been. We have been taking to heart that he wants to do less and less. To that end, you will see more faces behind the bar. We may be adjusting hours a bit—and to our drumbeat message, BBYC is a volunteer club, and each of us has a volunteer commitment by virtue of our membership. But rest assured, BBYC will remain one of the best yacht clubs around with bar prices you just can't beat. Come on in! The bar is open and the fire is lit.

Marina Update

As we have previously noted, Ballena Isle Marina has replaced B Dock. We look for that work to be completed, hopefully, by the end of January. New asphalt/paving/stripping has been completed in the G/F Dock parking lot. Pathwork/paving will start in January from B Dock around to the Pier 29 Restaurant. And the repaired and improved guest docks have more than helped to restore BBYC as a cruise-in destination. New winds blowin'.

The Cruise-out Report

Bill Stapp

BBYC cruise outs for 2018 are shaping up to provide a lot of fun. At this point we have destinations lined up for January to Treasure Island Yacht Club and February to the Aeolian Yacht Club.

Our trek to Treasure Island Yacht Club will take place January 26-28. This coincides with the January Treasure Island flea market. The Treasure Island Marina is undergoing dock repairs and thus we are limited to a maximum 6 boats participating.

Our visit to the Aeolian Yacht Club will take place February 16-18. The Aeolian Yacht Club offers a standout brunch the third Sunday of every month, so please plan to enjoy. BBYC cruisers will be joined by an additional yacht club this weekend so there will be an opportunity to mingle with other cruisers.

Evites will be forthcoming shortly for these events. Let's have a great time cruising in 2018.



Mark and Dee in the Lighted Boat Parade.

The Port Captain Report

David Paoletta

BBYC is actively soliciting cruise-ins for 2018 and the calendar is wide open to clubs wishing to plan a visit to the new and improved Ballena Isle Marina. As of this writing the South Beach Yacht Club is planning to cruise-in the weekend of June 22.

I was wasting time on the Catalina 30 Facebook page recently and noticed a post from a San Francisco Cat-30 (tall rig) owner complete with a nice picture of his boat reaching across the city front on a sunny day. His post sympathized in a mildly snarky way with east coast sailors and all the trouble and expense of having to haul their boats for the winter. I'm sure the thought of this guy and other "left coasters" happily sailing around out here while their boats are hauled, fluids drained or replaced with anti-freeze, and expensively shrink-wrapped in plastic, really warmed their hearts. It's like a guy with a new Cadillac commiserating with someone who has to take the bus—yeah, thanks a lot for caring!

As a person who lived the sad life of no winter sailing for many years, I can tell you that there is

no bleaker season in Cape Cod than late fall, when the leaves fall, everything turns grey and the wind literally chills to the bone. Hauling and preparing a boat for winter presents a sense of loss and despair almost equivalent to interring a loved one. Your life has changed for the worse, and you have nothing to look forward to until at least the vernal equinox, and sometimes not until St. John's Eve.

If East Coast sailors knew what conditions on the Bay in December and January are really like; the short days, frequent fog, bone-aching dampness and fluky winds, they might not be so jealous. Still, as somebody once said (somewhere...) "Some sailing is better than no sailing." Or words to that effect—so I'll continue to gear up in multiple layers of fleece, a balaclava, toasty gloves and ply the waters of the Bay listening to football on the radio (I prefer the boys of summer) and thank Poseidon for the opportunity. Personally, I try not to boast about it to my snow-bound friends back home, well not too much!



Winter sailing on the Bay.



Ballena Bay Yacht Club
CRAB FEED

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT Fresh Dungeness Crab
Salad • Garlic Bread • Dessert
LIVE MUSIC by Mike T!**

**Saturday, January 20
7:00 pm**

\$45 per person

Must purchase tickets by Friday, January 12

**Send a check to BBYC at 1150 Ballena Blvd. Alameda, CA 94501
Or to pay by credit card, call Jeff at 510-851-6382**

Photo: Mr. Jackman



The SSS MAKAI won Grand Prize in the Lighted Boat Parade. Congratulations Sea Scouts!

Photos: David Alexander



The annual Yankee Swap holiday gift exchange.