

Dear Cruise-Out Chair,

I write to remind you that Ballena Bay Yacht Club remains a choice destination for a relaxing, activity-filled (either or both!) weekend for your Club. For decades we have striven to provide a darn good meal, pleasant clubhouse environment, and more often than not a themed event – with live bands!- for visiting clubs.

We are located in the Ballena Isle Marina (BIM), the only marina in Alameda with immediate access to the open Bay. The marina setting is beautiful by day (see Ballena Isle Marina’s Facebook page) and peaceful by night.

FIRST: the Marina, where it all starts and ends: At BBYC itself we try to arrange dinners, breakfasts, themed events and Sunday am bike rides around your wishes. But life isn’t just one big Yacht Club – Pier 29 Restaurant is right next door, featuring a broad menu, full bar and both Bay and Marina vistas. Right across the street, you can fly a kite or catch a fish (well, YOU can catch a fish, danged if I can...)

THEN: for those wishing to stretch their legs, Alameda is bike/walk heaven. In fact, both BBYC and BIM provide maps produced by Bike Walk Alameda to make it even easier for you. Many of our visiting cruisers have bikes aboard and have discovered the former Naval Air Station right next door, with the Hornet Museum, a cool second hand bike shop, and a brewery, winery and distillery right next to each other. A short ride from the brewery and you’re on the Estuary side, watching all the folks short-tacking to the Bay, which YOU won’t have to do in the morning! A 20-minute walk (or shorter ride) and you are on Webster Street with a variety of great restaurants (East Ocean was named Second Best for Dim Sum in the whole US), a couple of real dive bars, and the Pacific Pinball Museum (which is hands-on, by the way). On your way back to the marina you’ll realize that you missed Wilmot’s Books – Tim’s a sailor and has an eclectic assortment of nautical books, along with the other kinds. All of this is not to mention 2.5 mile Crown Beach, and the Park Street restaurant and entertainment district nearby...

BIG: BIM is under new ownership and management, and that’s probably going to mean construction at some point. The Harbormaster and her team are enthusiastic about welcoming cruise-ins, and they support our club in making these events a success. All berthing arrangements are directly with the Harbormaster’s office – BBYC neither owns nor manages any slips – but we are happy to help coordinate, and provide local knowledge and opinion on sailing approaches to the marina. To this end, to arrange the trip to BBYC that you’ve meant to make all year but forgot to schedule, here are your 3 key contacts:

Ballena Isle Marina: Cody Honea	chonea@shmarinas.com	(510) 523-5528
Port Captain: David Paoletta	portcaptain@bbyc.org	(505) 401-9621
Social Events Coordinator: Deborah Draper	social@bbyc.org	(312) 848-8481

SO: How soon may I expect to hear from you, to schedule a weekend of fun and relaxation?

THANK YOU,

David Paoletta
Port Captain, BBYC

www.bbyc.org