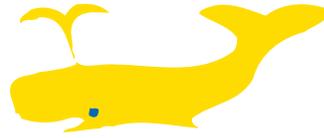


The Whale's Tale

Ballena Bay Yacht Club



Alameda, CA

Volume 2018, Issue 11

November, 2018

The Commodore Report

Kathryn Rees



BBYC is 50 years strong. As

long as any of us can remember and in anything we have seen written, BBYC was founded in 1969, making next year our 50th anniversary. And, indeed, we have been talking about a 50th celebration next year. But did you know that, while BBYC became operational in 1969, the Articles of Incorporation creating the Ballena Bay Yacht Club were actually filed on November 15, 1968. As a non-profit, the purposes for which the corporation were formed are: *"...to foster and encourage yachting and boating and to promote and increase the knowledge and efficiency of its members and others in the science of navigation and the art of handling, operating and maintaining sailboats, cruisers, and other water craft, and to promote the social interests of its members...and that this corporation shall not engage in any activities which are not in the furtherance of these purposes."* It has been a great legacy, and BBYC continues to persevere and grow, thanks to its members, great volunteers, and love of boating and all things water. Cruise-outs, cruise-ins, racing, regattas, just being on the water, or just hanging out with friends—plus all our social events. BBYC has something for everyone. So let's make our 50th year our best year yet.

Halloween Celebration on October 27. A big shout out to Ballena Isle Marina for sponsoring this awesome event again this year at BBYC—fine food, great music. All those ghouls, goblins, ghosts and grizzlies were over the orange moon in creativity with their costumes. Plus—raffle tickets for those who brought in canned goods for the Food Bank. Fun for a great cause.

BBYC Annual Member Dinner and Board Election on November 3. Don't miss the great authentic German



Photo: Andy Harmon

The long and short of it—5' to 6'8. Always great times at BBYC!

dinner by Andrea Anderson and come vote for your 2019 Bridge. A special thanks to the Nominating Committee for all its great work. Respond to your Evite if you are coming.

Commodore's Ball on November 10. This event is about all you who volunteer to make BBYC great. It is a great chance to not only say thanks, but welcome the 2019 Bridge. We look forward to seeing you. See the Happenin' Happenings section for more details.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Every Friday: "Aloha Friday" Happy Hour

Nov 1: Board Meeting

Nov 3: Members Meeting/Dinner/Annual Election

Nov. 10: Commodore's Ball

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Leftover Day and Potluck

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

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Happenin' Happenings

Nothing dull about BBYC. The late September/October cruise-in schedule rocked! What a tribute to BBYC and Ballena Isle Marina that sister yacht clubs are finding Ballena Bay as THE place to cruise. A huge thank you to all our volunteers who tend bar and do food—plus set up and clean up—you are the ones that make things happen. From the last week in September to October 31—just five weeks, we had seven, yes, seven cruise-ins alone! We did an unscheduled Sunday dinner for over 70 when the Sacramento Yacht Club and Sea Ray Boat Club came in at the same time! So a huge thanks to our Port Captain, David Paoletta and everyone who has been stepping up to make BBYC the place to be. And Andrea Anderson and her team did such an amazing job on the Oktoberfest dinner!

Lots happening in November and December. Watch for your Evites.

• November 3—Members' Meeting, Dinner, and Annual Election.

Come vote for your next year's Bridge! Plus, Andrea Anderson is back by popular demand with another, great authentic German dinner—braised beef, sweet and sour braised cabbage, from scratch German noodles, hot Amaretto wild berries over ice cream—all for \$15. Cocktails at 6:00; voting from 6:00 to 7:00; dinner at 7:00.

• **November 10—Commodore's Ball.** This annual event honors our member volunteers and introduces the 2019 Bridge. Prime rib and all the fixin's by Todd LeCorre and Grant Laske—nobody does this better than these two. Decor by Deborah Draper and team. Music by Mike T. All for \$30.

• **November 24—Thanksgiving Leftover Day and Potluck.** This has long been a BBYC tradition, especially among our Marina and Alameda members. Just kick-back camaraderie, football, and fun. Plus lots of games and cards in the game drawer. 6:00 starts the cocktail hour and appetizers.

• **December 1—Members' Dinner, Soup Night and Tree Trimming.** This is always a great, laidback event. How can you beat homemade soup in the wintertime! What a wonderful way to get into the Holiday Spirit.

• **December 15—Yankee Swap and Christmas Party.** This event is always a kick as people bring gifts to put under the tree, then jockey for the "best swap." Plus, bring canned goods for charity.

The Vice Commodore Report

Lu Abel

A very short report this month. We have no new members this month.

We are very actively planning for BBYC's role as a polling place for the General Election on Tuesday, November 6th. Four supply carts with everything from the actual ballots to voting machines to folding polling booths will be delivered on Monday and will be picked up again on Wednesday. They will be parked by the dart boards. We ask everyone to simply stay clear of them.

BBYC's Board of Directors has

decided that the Club will be closed on Election Day. But there is one opportunity for Club members: It is expected that upwards of four hundred (!) voters will visit BBYC on Election Day. It would be really nice if we could have members sitting at the "David Alexander" table by the Club entrance to speak with any interested folks about BBYC membership. If you could spare an hour or two on Election Day to help with this, please contact me—luabel@ymail.com or vicecommodore@bbyc.org.

Racy Update

Ward Fulcher, Sub-Assistant Vice-Junior Race Chair

Another season of Grillers wrapped up, and we'll bring you results in next month's Whale's Tale. One high point was BBYC's successful hosting of a BAMA regatta in July, which I covered in some detail in an earlier issue.

Word is that BAMA will be back this summer, as they enjoyed and were enjoyed by our Club that weekend. Some of the top racing talent in the SF Bay Area will always liven the conversation up, and we get to see if Kjell R can still speak Norwegian (he can). Here's a cool Old Norse

word: Knarr. The Knarr Fleet has been in touch with our Race Chair, Gary Helms, about using BBYC as a regatta venue this coming summer. We also hope to support Club Nautique's Bay Buoy Boogie Regatta, a 23-mile race.

Closer to home, Gary's already scheduling next summer's Grillers, and we may throw in a couple of wrinkles. The most important of these will be a Cruisers Class. So, in addition to the dedicated group of multi-hullers and monohullers (somebody please make Jeff R sweat a little more!) I propose an open class, no PHRF certificate

needed, with a different set of prizes, like "most family members on the boat" or "cutest pet on the boat" or "racing with someone from the office when the boss thinks you're both working". Casual racing is a great way to start your weekend by knocking the barnacles off your (boat's) bottom, and keeping your sailing skills up. We might even do a couple weekend races, like the one Yer Old Race Chair did years ago when all boats had to drop anchor – at the starting gun. That was fun to watch, and we hope you'll watch this space too.

The Port Captain Report

David Paoletta

One of the Port Captain's duties is to stay in touch with clubs cruising in to visit, work with the Social Committee to ensure there are bartenders and chefs to provide victuals and libations in the Ballena Bay YC spirit. October was a banner month for cruise-ins with large groups visiting from all over the Bay and the Delta. Some of them chose to visit during the week, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays when the club is usually quiet—with no planned activities. In these cases members have volunteered to open the club, tend bar and in some cases cook a special meal. I would like to thank all the club volunteers who helped make visiting Ballena Bay YC fun. Brace yourselves: next year may be even busier!

I was just back east for a wedding and took a few days to visit some old haunts on Cape Cod. Although the weather was mercifully mild for the wedding, October can be a savage month in Massachusetts. Late fall and winter on Cape Cod can teach you a lot about

fortitude. Some people I knew would fall into a laconic haze that would last from after Thanksgiving well into April. Others would sort of shift into a lower gear and just deal with it. The weather plays a significant role in one's mental state and ability to perform basic daily activities in a way it seldom does in California.

As we drove slowly towards the harbor in Wellfleet, we passed what has always been for me a symbol of the spirit and fortitude typical of Cape Codders. It's an old wooden dory, about eight feet long, in the crossroads where three roads intersect. It's filled with flowers. The story goes that during the gale of October

4th 1841 the storm surge was so high that this boat fetched up in front of a house nearby, about ½ mile from the harbor. That storm is still referred to as the "deadly gale" since it took so many lives.

"The October gale flooded Nantucket streets, demolished its ropewalks and threw its barns into the sea. Cape Cod suffered the most. The beach from Chatham to the highlands was strewn with the parts of 50 wrecks. In one day after the October gale, 100 bodies were taken up and buried. The Truro Insurance Company failed for a lack of men to take charge of its vessels."
– New England Historical Society

Instead of clearing the broken boat away as just another piece of storm-damaged junk, the residents turned it into a planter, a symbol of rebirth after the storm. Not a bad lesson for dealing with adversity in general.



Decorative Lighting on Boats: Be Safe—Be Smart.

With the Holiday Season soon upon us, many will be turning thoughts to decorating their boats or participating in lighted boat parades that are such a hallmark of the Holiday Season in the boating world. So November seemed like an opportune time to offer the common

sense reminders below from John Hardin, the Safety Officer for our sister yacht club in Sacramento.

If you've done much boating after sunset, you've undoubtedly noticed the great proliferation of decorative lighting on boats. The introduction of high intensity LED lights adds to the sometimes spectacular

nature of this phenomenon.

Decorative lighting can be "permanently" mounted or it can be temporary for special occasions such as lighted boat parades. In either case, there are rules governing their use.

Rule 20 of the Navigation Rules requires the display of navigation lights from sunset to sunrise and at other times as is necessary. Navigation lights provide important information about who you are and what you're doing.

Thus, the Rules further provide that *decorative lighting must not obscure visibility of your navigation lights or be mistaken for your navigation lights*. Additionally, decorative lighting must not interfere with the keeping of a proper look-out.

So have fun lighting up your boat. Just make sure your navigation lights can serve their intended purpose and that you can see where you're going.



In Memorium—Fritz Schneider

We say goodbye to our dear Fritz, who crossed the bar ten days before his 79th birthday. Fritz and his wife Edie, who lived in Germany, came to visit his cousin, BBYC member Andrea Anderson, five years ago to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. The friendly folks at BBYC made them return frequently (plus they loved Tinker and his margaritas), so they proudly became members. On the airplane home to Germany, both were proudly resplendent in their red Ballena Bay Yacht Club shirt and vest. Fritz spoke with pride about the club at home in Germany to anyone who would listen. A brew master at heart and by family tradition, after his two years in German military service, Fritz poured his life into the art of beer brewing. He bought the old Family Bosch brewery which was established in 1705, restoring

it to its former glory. Fritz was well known in the community for his support of German culture and 40 years Oktoberfest as Tent host. This year's BBYC Oktoberfest dinner was in memory of Fritz from his Family—and prepared by his cousin, Andrea Anderson. Fair winds, Dear Friend.



Aloha Friday and Oktoberfest

Photos by Kathryn Rees and Andrea Anderson

