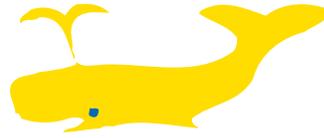


The Whale's Tale

Ballena Bay Yacht Club



Alameda, CA

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February, 2018

The Commodore Report

Kathryn Rees



What a great January with our stupendous Round the Island and Crab Feed events. We kicked off our cruise-out season to Treasure Island, and racing season starts next month. We have some new things going on. Check out the snacks and bar food that we now have available—most inexpensively. Next time you come off the water hungry and you want food other than popcorn—don't leave the bar or your beer, because you have options. The snacks are out, and payment is the honor system. The price list is right there. Also, BBYC has instituted "Aloha Fridays." The brainstorm of Mark Pavusko—who doesn't just suggest, he takes ownership to implement, this is a great happenin'. Each Friday at BBYC, enjoy your favorite beverage at the best bar prices in town, plus \$3 and under bar snacks and food along with great music—sometimes live. If you do prefer darts, the big screen TV or board games—we have them too. Who knows, hula dancers might appear. Come on by.

February Events

Every Friday: "Aloha Friday"

February 3: "Daffodil Daze" Membership Dinner

February 4: Super Bowl Sunday

February 10: Mardi Gras Party

February 16: Cruise out to Aeolian Yacht Club

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



Photo: Maryann Subbotin

The view from the Sunset Room.

Bring your friends. The tiki torches will be lit.

And a thank you to Ballena Isle Marina who hosted a Marine Institute San Francisco Bay Tides and Currents seminar at BBYC. This was a free event for BIM berthers and BBYC members—replete with beverages and snacks. Look to see more of these kinds of collaborative events. We have some fabulous, February happenin's. Watch for your Evites and respond. You don't want to miss out.

Speaking of all these great events, BBYC is an all-volunteer organization. As such, the active participation and involvement of all our members is critical—not just to pull off our events and activities and keep our dues and food prices down, but to the culture and camaraderie that are the core identity of what makes BBYC so uniquely special. You are the contributors and bedrock for the Club's future. Whether a racer, cruiser, sail boater, power boater, or no boater, BBYC members love the water and want to spend good times together—on and off the water. Don't miss the boat—BBYC is a happenin' place. Find your niche and share your gifts. And when you see someone who has given of their time, effort and creativity to make the Club better—say things like wow, this is great, or just plain thank you. If you are tempted to say, "Someone ought to....", have a suggested plan and someone in mind. Better yet—say: "I'll do that!"

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The Vice-Commodore Report

Lu Abel

In January we welcomed not one, not two, but three new members! Lief Pallesen lives here in Alameda and has a 41' Chriscraft Commander, *The Catch*, that he hopes to bring to Ballena Isle Marina. Lauren Freed works next door at Club Nautique and has just bought a 35' sailboat that she brought down from Richmond. She is looking forward to working on making her boat shipshape. Last but not least are Brian Kvikstad/Jenne Hensley who live in the Ballena Bay neighborhood. While they do not own a boat, we look forward to welcoming them aboard some of ours. Please say hello to Lief, Lauren, or Brian and Jenne, introduce yourself, and welcome them to BBYC if you

see them at one of our events.

Our 2018 membership cards have arrived for BBYC members (yea!). The simplest way to get your card is to come to one of BBYC's events or just drop in. Ask whoever is behind the bar for your card. For our Associate Members, if your cards aren't in yet, they soon will be so check with Tradewinds or Club Nautique.

Businesses know that the best way to get new customers is by personal referrals from existing customers. Think of BBYC as a "business" and please tell your friends and dockmates about the benefits of BBYC membership! Let's build the great business of BBYC—the on and off the events are great! And the camaraderie unparalleled.

The Rear Commodore Report

Tom Burns

As many of you know, our long time member Dave "Tinker" Hall has decided to "retire" from BBYC. Understand, in this context, Tinker was a BBYC member who was the volunteer fixture at the Club and often behind the bar so that the rest of us were free to come and go and enjoy ourselves. Rest assured, we will have people behind the bar—and some of them may be you! However, with Tinker's departure, be prepared for changing hours at the club. We would like to get to standard hours which can be posted, but currently are in a state of flux as the closing is currently done by different folks, some just stepping up in the interim. We are looking for volunteers to be responsible for closing the club in the evenings, this might be several different people

each taking responsibility for a day of the week, or several days. Duties will include closing up the bar and dealing with the bar's cash, turning off the lights, setting the alarm, and locking the doors. There is no pay for this, but it would satisfy your volunteer requirement for the club, plus if you bartend during this time, of course you will be entitled to your tips. If you think you might be interested in taking on one or more days of the week, please contact me. In the meantime, if you approach the club in the evening, and find the doors locked with the lights out or in "night light" mode, you can still enter with your key—**just not after 10:00 pm on weekdays or midnight on Friday/Saturday or you will set off the alarm.**

The Cruise-out Report

Bill Stapp

Our first cruise out for 2018 took place last weekend at Treasure Island Yacht Club. It was a little challenging to effect an easy entry to the marina as Friday and Saturday had high tides at 7 and 8 in the morning. Minus tides occurred in the early afternoon. TIYC is located in an ideal location with a brewery and four wineries very close by. An additional attraction was that the Treasure Island flea market operates both Saturday and Sunday. A dinner with TIYC members was enjoyable following cocktail hour that included appetizers brought by our cruisers.

Coming up February 16-18 will be a cruise out to the Aeolian Yacht Club. For those of you who have not been to the Aeolian Yacht Club, the building really gives me a feeling of going back in time. The weekend is very favorable for the budget conscious; there are no slip fees, and for \$40 they provide dinner both Friday and Saturday night as well as brunch Sunday morning. Dinner Friday will be a pasta dinner (\$12). Saturday will be a catered Chinese dinner (\$18). The Sunday brunch is something they do once a month featuring something for everyone, bacon, ham, sausage, eggs, potatoes etc.

Getting to Aeolian will require approaching from the estuary as the Harbor Bay bridge is closed for repairs.

Plans for our March cruise out are in the process of being finalized. Stay tuned.

BBYC Happenin' Happenings

BBYC ihas been rockin'! Kicking off 2018 was the traditional ***Around the Island***. A huge success and the best New Year's Day ever! Burgers and dogs. Snacks and hot appetizers. Did we have company from all over the Island—they came early and stayed late! Some by boat and some by land cruiser. We lost count at 85. A huge thanks to our volunteers that pulled this one off. Aside from head volunteers-in-chief, Mark Pavusko and Dee Furley, kudos to Rob and Meg for manning the bar and BBQ. Kim and Gwyn, along with Dee, kept those yummy appetizers coming. Lots of comments about the great energy, friendly people, and fun club that are the BBYC hallmarks. And the ***BBYC All You Can Eat Crab Feed***—85 plus came on January 20. The sweetest crab you ever tasted. What could we have done without our server Sea Scouts—a stupendous job they did. Thanks to Jeff Fuller and Gwyn Smith for honchoing this wow event—along with David who checked our guests in, Rob and Meg who arranged and set the tables, and Deborah and Lynn who assisted in the kitchen.

Aloha Fridays—don't miss out. Our newest Board Director, Mark Pavusko, has instituted "Aloha Fridays" every week. Where else can you go to have a happenin', friendly place to go after work or coming off the water at the end of the week with \$3 and under bar

food and the best drink prices around. Plus, you will get to mingle and listen to our racers tell tall tales when they come off the water. And while the music isn't always live, there is always music that will make you feel alive! All reciprocal club members and their guests are welcome. When that 1700 hour arrives—you want to be where? BBYC—of course! Make it a habit. As our newest member Lauren Freed said: ***"I really enjoyed my first evening at BBYC as an official member. Everyone was warm and welcoming. It was so nice to hang out and chat. Thank you."***

Coming up: *Daffodil Daze Membership Dinner on February 3.* Lou Ann Roth has cucumber/avocado salad; oven roasted mustard-glazed pork tenderloin, potatoes, green beans; baguettes/butter and lemon cake on deck. The Membership Dinner, aside from being great eats, is where you find out firsthand what is going on behind the scenes at your club. ***SUPER BOWL SUNDAY February 4***—Be there or be square. Pre-game festivities start about 1400. Sloppy Joes. Chili Dogs. Popcorn. Snacks. All for only \$5.00. And don't miss out on the football pool! ***February 10 is Mardi Gras—Laissez les bons temps rouler!*** Put on your beads and mask and come on over for shrimp boil kabobs, chicken gumbo, dirty rice, king cake and music/dancing!

The Light Is On—Come On In

Our beloved Tinker has "retired." BBYC is a volunteer club. If you are in the Club, turn on the lights—let visitors and Associate Members know they are welcome to hang with you. Get them a drink if they want one. Hand out an application or show someone around the Club if they are interested in joining.

The Port Captain Report

David Paoletta

The cruise-in season is starting to take shape as clubs from around the bay and up in the Delta are making arrangements for the upcoming sailing season. So far, we have Coyote Point coming March 17-18th, South Beach Yacht Club arrives June 22-23, and a large contingent from Caliente Isle yacht Club, who will visit September 25th as part of their down-bay cruise. 2018 will mark Caliente's first visit to BBYC; they plan to have up to ten boats, and the Club is organizing a special Tuesday night dinner to welcome them. Please watch for an Evite and join the fun!

On a whim last weekend, I invited an acquaintance of mine out for a sail on the bay. I usually single-hand, but for some reason I felt like having some company and I knew that this person wasn't a sailor. He responded asking if he could bring his adult daughter along and if I thought it was "safe" on the boat for folks with no experience around sailboats. After looking at the weather prediction (6 – 7 knots of wind from the NW, no swell...); I responded in the affirmative.

It's always interesting hosting new people on the boat. You

never know whether they will talk too much, get horribly bored, make YOU horribly bored, etc. Sometimes, like last weekend, it works out fine and you get to talk to people on a deeper level, free from the common distractions that usually prevent us from really listening to each other. It's especially refreshing for people who aren't used to the slow pace, the quiet, and the unique views and perspectives you only get from sailing the bay in January on a foggy, light-wind day.

At one point, as we were bantering about some topic we all found hilariously funny, I looked up and realized we were approaching one of the small keel boats from a local sailing school. I told the helmsman to hold her course, that the approaching boat would pass astern of us. As they sailed by, we saw six very well equipped (full foulies, pfd's, etc.) and extremely serious sailors. Their laser-like intensity appeared somewhat comical in lieu of the light breeze and slow speed.

My passengers remarked that those people didn't look like they were having much fun, and what did I think might be going on? I told them that those people were in training and they appeared to be following all the rules of safety and good seamanship, and that they probably paid good money for the experience and thus were concentrating really hard on doing everything "right" to avoid being corrected by the instructor. Perhaps they would have to take a test later when they got back to the dock?

This led to a remark like "You have been teaching us all about sailing this whole time and it's been a blast!"

You know, sometimes it's great to take new people out sailing.

Hope to see you out on the Bay soon!



The Crab Feed

Photos by David Alexander, Mike Muetz and Kathryn Rees

