

The Whale's Tale

Ballena Bay Yacht Club



Alameda, CA

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The Commodore Report

Kathryn Rees



As I mentioned last month, our annual election for next year's Board is coming up at the November 3rd Membership Dinner. Many of our Officers have served for two years, including yours truly, so will be concluding their current positions. Kudos to all of the Bridge who have done a tremendous job. But it is time for "new blood." New systems have been and are being put in place to make sure that no position is too daunting. Many will help and support. So please lend your time and talent. Reach out to any members of the nominating committee (Deborah Draper, Jeff Fuller, Meg Abularrage, Tom Burns) or any of us on the Board if you want to be considered or want to nominate someone by October 3. We are especially interested in filling Commodore, Vice Commodore, Treasurer, and Rear Commodore, though there are other openings as well, including two Director positions.

September was busy at BBYC—Labor Day Cruise-Out to South Beach, races, great dinners, Aloha Fridays, Coastal Clean-up Day—lots of great time on and off the water. October was ushered in with *five* cruise-ins the last week of September—all to be positioned with the kick off of Fleet Week. There is nothing like being at ground zero for the airshow. There will be a lot more to do in October. Oktoberfest dinner, cruise-out to Coyote Point, more cruise-ins and a great Halloween Party (complete with costume contest). Be sure to check out the Happin' Happenings section of the newsletter for details.

Mark your calendar for the November 10 Commodore's Ball. The Bridge has done an amazing job this year through their dedication and commitment—all to ensure the stability and future of BBYC. Attending



Photo: Kathryn Rees

These three were on our dock at the slip behind us on the South Beach cruise-out. And they could bark! More photos on page 5.

the annual Commodore's Ball is a wonderful time to show your support and appreciation for all that they, and all of you, have contributed. The food and music are always great at this black tie optional event. This year, Todd LeCorre and Grant Laske will be putting together the best prime rib dinner and all the fixings. So dress up, spend time with great BBYC friends, and have a fabulous dinner!

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER EVENTS

Every Friday: "Aloha Friday" Happy Hour

Sept. 29: Coyote Pt. YC & Sea Ray Boat Club Cruise-in

Sept. 30: Sunday Dinner & Sacramento YC Cruise-in

Oct. 4: Board Meeting

Oct 6: Oktoberfest Dinner

Oct. 12-14: Cruise-out to Coyote Point

Oct. 27: Halloween Party & Berkeley YC Cruise-in

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

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The Vice Commodore Report

Lu Abel

In September, we welcomed two new members: Bob and Kate Moberg and Tony Harmon and Nick Stellato.

The Mobergs live in Sparks, Nevada, but have a Pearson 26 sailboat, *Mephisto Cat*, on C-Dock in our Marina. Bob is a seasoned sailor and yacht club member and pleased to find BBYC. Bob and Kate previously had their boat on the Estuary, but moved her to Ballena Isle Marina.

Tony and Nick live part of each month on their farm in Maryland and stay on their Bayliner 57, *Red Chili*, in Ballena Isle Marina when they are working on the west coast. They are eager to lend their time and talent to BBC in the form of

their marketing, communication, finance, and bartending skills and expertise.

As always, if you see one of our new members (or even one who you just don't recognize) please say hello to them, introduce yourself, and welcome them to BBYC.

Last month I reported that BBYC was under consideration as a host for a polling place on Election Day, November 6th. We have been selected! In fact, BBYC will host not one but two polling places, the one formerly in Paden Elementary School and the one formerly in Encinal High School.

Alameda County is still looking for people willing to work (and get paid!) as election workers. Details below.

Election Workers Needed

Free, fair, and frequent elections are a hallmark of American democracy. This year is no exception. On Tuesday, Nov. 6th, Californians will vote and select people to fill city, county, state, and federal positions as well as voting on over a dozen Propositions.

To make this all happen we need polling places staffed by election workers. The Alameda County Registrar of Voters (AC-ROV) is seeking people who can spend Election Day staffing a polling place. And actually get paid \$150!

What is required to be an election worker? You must be a registered voter in Alameda County. You must attend a 3-hour class on how to be an election worker—the various tasks that need to be performed, dealing with exceptions, setup and tear down of the two types of election machines, and actual hands-on training.

Then there's Election Day itself.

"Setup" of a polling place includes putting out voter information, setting up voting booths and balloting machines. Much of this is done on Election Eve, Monday night. But the final setup must be done starting at 6AM on Election Day. Polls are open from 7AM to 8PM. Election workers get two one-hour breaks. After the polls close, it takes another 1½–2 hours to break it all down. A long but satisfying day!

If you are interested in being assigned to BBYC, you can ask for it in your application. Just put down "prefer Ballena Bay Yacht Club (305400, 305410)".

How do you get started? Go to <https://www.acvote.org/community/become-a-poll-worker> and apply!

Half day positions are also available—setup through 2PM and 1PM through breakdown. Come and join in supporting our democracy by being an election worker!

The Port Captain Report

David Paoletta

September was a busy month for cruise-ins. The Club has hosted The Potter Yachter and Caliente Yacht Clubs—but get ready for an absolutely crazy October! Many of our friends from the Delta are working their way into the Bay in anticipation of Fleet Week activities and many are stopping by Ballena Isle Marina as part of their cruise. We will be reaching out for volunteer cooks and bartenders and just some folks to open the club and provide friendly welcome as some of these visits are during the week! If you have been thinking about helping out, or have some time to open the club for visitors, please contact me or the Commodore asap!

The current line-up is listed below:

- Oct. 1-7 or 8-14; Sacramento YC
- Oct. 17-18; Pittsburg YC
- Sept. 30-Oct. 2; Sacramento YC

- Oct. 23-24; Benicia YC
- October 27-28; Berkeley YC

I was lucky enough to grow up a stones-throw from the salt water of Nantucket Sound, and my buddies and I spent summers on the water unsupervised by mothers or dads. Somehow we dealt with the bumps, scrapes and sunburns on our own. We survived squalls, getting becalmed during an ebb tide and making it home way after dark, “flying gybes” and didn’t get harassed or abducted, and lived to tell the tale. We had good parents, they wanted us to have fun during the summer and they wanted to relax too. It worked for my generation but things are a bit overscripted for kids these days.

I noticed this article in the Waterborne blog, and it struck a nerve. *“Growing Up Brave: Why I let my kids play with an apex predator.”*

This dad knows something about the reef sharks that live in their Abaco Island anchorage and he has taught his children that they should be respected but not feared; that staying alert and aware of the environment and what is happening and reacting properly is the best defense against accidents and injuries. He has a good understanding of what parents should really be worrying about to keep their kids safe.

“Letting my kids in the water with an apex predator, seemed like an utterly insane idea; at least until I considered how many parents put their children in an automobile every day... We don’t think twice about strapping our kids into those statistical death machines, yet people are terrified of sharks, despite the fact that almost no one gets killed by them. Only four or five people in any given year, worldwide. It’s not the potential for catastrophe that makes us afraid, I realized, it’s the novelty of the danger. What we’re used to feels safe.”

A little knowledge goes a long way, stay safe, my friends!

The Cruise-out Report

Bill Stapp

Our last cruise out for 2018 will take place October 12-13 at Coyote Point Yacht Club, located at Coyote Point Park in San Mateo north of the San Mateo Bridge, but south of the Bay Bridge. In addition to the Coyote Point Yacht Club, within the park grounds are walking and biking trails, along with a golf course. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to the Evite that was sent out last week.

For those of you in sailboats, the CPYC location makes a wonderful sail in both directions. Friday night we will be joining the members of CPYC for a Commodore’s dinner. Plans are pending for Saturday night, so stay tuned.

For more information about the clubhouse and the marina, as well as nearby restaurants and other activities, here is a link to the CPYC [brochure](#).

A quick housekeeping reminder. All reservations for Saturday night dinners must be made by Thursday night at 7:00pm. Late reservations and walk-ins will be charged \$5 more at the door. Reservations need to be cancelled by Thursday at 7:00pm or the cost will be billed to your statement.

Happenin' Happenings

- **September 28—Aloha Friday Alive and Kickin' starting at 5:00pm.**

Come on in for a long, tall cool one and hang with the Tower Park Yacht Club and Coyote Point Yacht Club cruisers. Bar food, popcorn and great company.

- **September 29—5:00 pm.** Come have a cold one, some bar snacks and hang with the Coyote Point and Sea Ray Boat Club cruise-ins

- **September 30—Sunday Night Dinner and Sacramento Yacht Club Cruise-In With Live Music by The Basic Beat.** Grilled lemon pepper chicken, macaroni salad, poppy seed slaw, dessert—all for \$20. Plus music by The Basic Beat—they are a do

not miss band. Cocktails at 6:00 with dinner at 7:00.

- **October 4—Board Meeting.**

Location change to Club Nautique at 7:00pm.

- **October 6—Oktoberfest and Member Dinner.** Cocktails at 6:00pm; dinner at 7:00. Our own Dr. Andrea Anderson from Germany will do an authentic and fabulous Oktoberfest dinner. Hungarian gulasch with spaetzle (home made German noodles) and traditional braised red cabbage—plus dessert. Look forward to a great time for only \$15.

- **October 12-14—BBYC Cruise-out to Coyote Point.** The last cruise-

out of the year to a beautiful location replete with park and golf course. And their Saturday night Commodore's dinner promises to be a real event in our honor!

- **October 27—Halloween Party and Berkeley Yacht Club Cruise-in.**

Freaking fun, frightening food, and fine music—all arranged by Ballena Isle Marina—starts at 7:00pm, but all are welcome to come in to enjoy no host bar for 6:00 cocktails. Support Alameda Food Bank—bring canned goods and get tickets for raffle prizes. Costume contest and prizes. No charge for marina berthers and tenants; \$20 for all others.

The Island Party

Photos by David Alexander



The South Beach Cruise-out

Photos by Cindy Wagner

