

The Whale's Tale

Ballena Bay Yacht Club



Alameda, CA

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The Commodore Report

Kathryn Rees



What a contrast between February 2017 and 2018—from howling winds and sheeting rain to sunshine and virtually no rain! From dilapidated docks to brand new docks and dock renewal. From a cracked/uneven walkway to walkway replacement. From pot-holed G parking lot to a brand new resurface. From dysfunctional gate/bath house keys to new fobs... Lot's going on in Ballena Isle Marina—for the better. If you or your friends are docked elsewhere, you may want to check out BIM now—easy walking distance to Ballena Bay Yacht Club.

And there is a lot going on at BBYC—both on and off the water. Our race program cranks into gear this month. Already two cruise-outs under our belt with a March one to Emeryville coming up, replete with some amazing activities. Aloha Fridays are just getting better and better—stop on in. The tides and currents seminar by the Maritime Institute in collaboration with Ballena Isle Marina and BBYC was a great refresher for those who love to sail the Bay. And have you been in to

March Events

Every Friday: "Aloha Friday"

March 1: Board Meeting

March 3: Primavera Italiana Dinner

March 17: St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Live Music

March 23: Emeryville Cruise-out

March 30: Friday Night Race #1

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

Race Season is Upon Us!

Turn to the Race Report on page 3 to learn more.



Photo: Gary Helms



notice a "spiffed up" Club? The "Daffodil Daze" pork roast dinner was to die for, and the Mardi Gras event with gumbo and shrimp was over the top—special thanks to Lou Ann Roth. Plus, the music by Jeff Jolly and his talented wife, Des, was amazing—a don't miss experience! Our March events promise to be just as wonderful—a Primavera Italiana (Italian Spring) Dinner on March 3 followed by a real St. Paddy's celebration with live music and dinner on March 17. Y'all come on in! Watch for those Evites and sign on up.

That's all for now. Come on in—the bar is open. The water is great and the winds are up. The dinners amazing. Play some darts. Or just hang out. BBYC is your Club.

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The Vice-Commodore Report

Lu Abel

We have one Membership Application that has been posted and will be voted upon at the BBYC Board meeting on March 1st. Speaking of applications, they are posted on our bulletin board for a minimum of two weeks to give members of BBYC (including you) an opportunity to provide feedback about the applicant (positive or negative) to the Board. So please glance at them when you're at the

Club, and let us know if you know the applicant.

As previously mentioned, 2018 membership cards are available for you to pick up when you visit the Club. They're by the cash register in the bar.

Got a friend at the marina or in your neighborhood? Invite them to be your guest at one of our events and let them experience the fun of being a BBYC member!

The Rear Commodore Report

Tom Burns

The club is open seven days a week to full members with a key, closing at 10pm unless members are using the club, in which case we will be open as late as someone who is qualified to set the alarm and close the club is willing to stay. People have signed up to cover each day of the week to close and alarm the Club, but some have taken on more than one day. If you would be willing to take responsibility for one of those days, or would be willing to be a relief person when one of the regular folks are unable to cover their day, please let me know. **Please note: If you show up after 10 and the club is dark, don't try to enter because the alarm is set.**

Our primary distributor that has been providing the house chardonnay, Rosenblum Chardonnay,

is no longer carrying that label.

To keep us supplied, we have a replacement which is Chateau Ste Michelle Chardonnay, from Washington State. We still are using up the last few bottles of Rosenblum but at some point soon you will see this as the house chardonnay. I don't often drink Chardonnay and had to make a quick decision so I am interested in what the members think. Do they like the new wine and are fine with it as our house chardonnay, would really like to find another source for Rosenblum, or have a suggestion for a new wine. Note: We were getting the Rosenblum for \$84 a case. Any replacement served at our house wine price needs to be in the same neighborhood. Come on in—the bar is open and our dinners are great!

The Cruise-out Report

Bill Stapp

Last weekend we had three boats visit the Aeolian Yacht Club in Alameda. BBYC members were treated to an abundance of hospitality. On Friday night there was a pasta buffet featuring spaghetti and meatballs followed by baked ziti, cheese bread and a salad featuring blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, and spinach. It was a wonderful meal. Saturday night paid homage to Chinese New Year with a catered buffet.

They did save the best for last with a brunch featuring lox, bagels, cream cheese and all the trimmings. Traditional brunch items such as bacon, sausage, and various egg dishes were there for the taking as well. Fresh fruit played a central role in this meal.

In addition to members from BBYC, there were several members of Coyote Point Yacht Club in attendance. They were very inclusive and invited us to join them for drinks in one of their boats. CPYC will be cruising in to BBYC later this year, and I am looking forward to reciprocating the hospitality they shared this weekend.

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 Race Report

Gary Helms

Ballena Bay Yacht Club Friday Night Griller races are beginning. The racing season is upon us. Monohull and Multihull sailboat divisions are competing. The race courses are right out our back door in the San Francisco South Bay. The Wind Gods will rule! The first Start will be at 18:00 hours Friday night, March 30. And then every other Friday night for the Spring, Summer and Fall Seasons—12 race nights in all. The event is simple to begin. Abeam the Ballena Bay Marina

flag pole, Monohull boats start at 18:00; Multihull boats start at 18:05. You take your own finish time and report it to the Ballena Bay Clubhouse after the race. Join the other racers and cruisers back at the club house for eats, drinks, prizes and to swap lies about your performance. Season Champion will be recognized. We invite cruisers who would like to participate to join us for the fun.

To register for the event go to www.jibeset.net. Then choose the link to Ballena Bay Yacht Club.

The Port Captain Report

David Paoletta

The Cruise-in calendar for 2018 is filling up, but there are still ample opportunities for clubs to visit BBYC and The Ballena Isle Marina. Unfortunately, a March visit had to be postponed due to construction on the Gas Dock/Guest Dock area. As of this writing the list of clubs cruising in is as follows:

April 20-22: Sequoia YC
June 22-23: South Beach YC
July 13-14: Coyote Point YC
September 15-16: The Potter Yachters
September 25-26: Caliente Isle YC
October 23-24: Benicia YC

In my relatively short time cruising the Bay I have noticed a

disturbing phenomenon—sailboats motoring on perfectly windy days! Now I know that there are a few good reasons to keep the sail covers on and burn diesel, but the percentage of boats driving versus sailing that I observe is so high that I must be missing something. So PLEASE, help me complete the top ten list below:

Top Ten Reasons Sailors Motor Rather Than Sail their perfectly good sailboats on perfectly windy days...

Email your answers to: Portcaptain@BBYC.org and I will put them in the next Port Captain's Musings column. I just don't get it?

Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association News

Ballena Bay Yacht Club is a proud member of P.I.C.Y.A. We are one of about 100 plus member clubs in northern California. Coming up immediately is a P.I.C.Y.A Delegates Meeting on March 5 at Richmond Yacht Club. Then the Board Meeting will be held at Aeolian Yacht Club on March 19. Following that is the Leadership Conference on March 24 at Vallejo

Yacht Club. All of these events are interesting. The Leadership Conference, particularly, is of interest to those interested in the workings and running of a yacht club—such things as how to stay square with the Alcohol Beverage Control Board and carry the proper insurance. Plus, these events are fun and build boating camaraderie. In addition, P.I.C.Y.A strongly supports and encourages

support of the Recreational Boaters' of California. RBOC is the lobbying presence in Sacramento to protect the interests of recreational boaters. Some areas they work on are the roll out of the vessels operators card, fighting invasive species in the Delta, using boater generated taxes for our fuels because of the increase in the gas tax—and much more. And finally, Opening Day on the San Francisco Bay is April 22 with the theme of "Nations on the Bay." We get a lot of bang for our buck being a P.I.C.Y.A. member—plus, it is great fun to visit our sister clubs by sail or motor cruise.

Aloha Fridays and Mardi Gras Dinner

Photos by David Alexander, Joseph Hassan and Kathryn Rees

